

THE

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR



APRIL, 1964

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news

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SPRINGFIELD
MAYOR
ISSUES
PROCLAMATION



IN TRIBUTE

BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Harold E. Westerhoff



The Albert H. Diebold Citizenship Awards, to be presented at the 1964 International Summer Assembly at Otterbein College this summer, have particular significance. In a very real sense they are a memorial to the man whose name they bear, Albert H. Diebold.

In his 91st year, Mr. Diebold died on February 17 at his winter residence in Palm Beach, Florida. Mr. Diebold's life story is truly a Horatio Alger epic. From very modest beginnings as a small town druggist in West Virginia at the turn of the century, he became one of the leaders in the pharmaceutical industry, a dominant personality in a far flung pharmaceutical manufacturing enterprise whose sales ranged up to more than half a billion dollars annually.

A native of Canton, Ohio, a resident of New York City and Palm Beach, Florida, Mr. Diebold was considered a genius in his field.

His interests went far beyond commerce and industry. He was an active, dedicated churchman. He was one of the leading supporters of CHRISTIAN HERALD magazine, of which Dr. Daniel A. Poling is editor. A lifelong Protestant Episcopal layman, Mr. Diebold was actively identified with the work of St. James Church, New York City; St. John's of Lattingtown, Long Island; and Bethesda by-the-Sea of Palm Beach. For a number of years Mr. Diebold has made a substantial gift to Christian Endeavor International, making possible the annual Christian Citizenship Crusade which has

won acclaim in many places. For fourth time Christian Endeavor's Citizenship Crusade has been recognized by Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

Mr. Diebold's son, A. Richard Diebold, continues an active identification with his father's many interests. His sympathy goes to Mr. Diebold's wife who survives him and to their son and their grandchildren. In a very real sense Mr. Diebold was a part of the great Christian Endeavor family, being brother of Lillian Diebold Poling (Mrs. Daniel A. Poling). In the death of Albert H. Diebold the Christian community has lost one of its outstanding citizens. His was a full life, a wonderful life, a life of real Christian witness.

April Activities

3-5—Washington State Christian Endeavor Convention, Yakima

Contact: Mrs. Reuben Ausink, 901 Front Street, Lynden 98264

9-12—Oregon Christian Endeavor Convention, Eugene

Contact: Miss Dorothy E. Howes, 303 Davis Building, Portland 97204

11-12—Michigan Spring Conclave, St. Mary's Lake

Contact: Elwood Dunn, 16524 Woodward Avenue, Detroit 48203

24-26—General Christian Endeavor Convention of General Baptists, Omaha, Illinois

Contact: Miss Jewel Wilson, P.O. Box 93, Grand Tower, Illinois 62942

24-26—Middle Atlantic Regional Conference, Atlantic City, New Jersey

Contact: James R. Westerhoff, P.O. Box 265, Hawthorne, New Jersey 07500

Pray for these Christian Endeavor events!

COVER CLUES

Mayor Nelson O. Howarth of Springfield, Illinois, signs proclamation naming January 26 to February 2 as Christian Endeavor Week. Present were two leaders of Sangamon County Union.

Photo by Paul G. Barnett



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THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD



FOUR CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR CHOIRS — primary through senior high — wore new robes on Christian Endeavor Sunday for the services at Second Christian Church, Houston, Texas.



BISHOP CLYDE W. MEADOWS, World's Union president, heard this Samoan Choir at a rally February 1 in Baptist Tabernacle in Auckland, New Zealand.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



Photo by Shirley Fretz

THESE HAPPY JUNIORS from Sherks-ton (Ontario) United Brethren Church won the Bible Quiz and the badge award at the Welland County birthday party.

LARRY HANBY especially enjoyed presenting this corsage at the Dallas (Texas) District banquet. His grandmother, Mrs. J. W. Hanby, was being honored as the lady present who had been in Christian Endeavor the longest.

Photo by Mary Moffitt



February 2 was the 83rd birthday of the Christian Endeavor movement. In honor of this event, the week from January 26 through February 2 was observed as Christian Endeavor Week by societies and unions. Many activities were scheduled, with all age groups participating. First reports of this year's event appeared in the March issue.

Juniors—200 of them—conducted a rally January 26 in Fulton, ILLINOIS, for Reformed Churches in the area. Societies were present from Fulton, Morrison, Spring Valley, and Clinton, Iowa. Veva Steen, Illinois union president, participated. Rev. George Nickels helped arrange the program.

Twenty-two past presidents of Northwest Branch, Philadelphia, PENNSYLVANIA, were honored at the annual banquet February 1 at Leverington Presbyterian Church. The host pastor, Rev. Robert W. Bringhurst, was the speaker. Toastmaster was Sam Foyle, one of the past presidents. The youth choir from Falls of Schuylkill Presbyterian Church sang for the 150 who were present. Robert Quinby was in charge of banquet plans.

February 2 was a big day at The Fort Washington Collegiate Church in New YORK CITY, where Dr. Daniel K. Poling is minister. The International President, Arch J. McQuilkin, spoke at a banquet for Junior and Senior High Endeavorers and at the evening service which followed, when the Senior High Society was in charge. G. DeWayne Bontrager, assistant to the minister, is Senior High advisor.

Juniors of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, VIRGINIA, invited parents to a special meeting February 2 and then remained for the evening service conducted by the Junior High and Senior High societies. The day ended with a singspiration. Lena E. Morgan is Junior sponsor.

Bishop Clyde W. Meadows, president of the World's Union, celebrated the birthday in NEW ZEALAND. He was there January 30—February 2 on his around-the-world trip. After visiting Rotorua, accompanied by Murray F. Smith, national secretary of the New Zealand Union, he attended a Hangi arranged by the Auckland Union (see the photos on Page 5) and there spoke informally to approximately sixty Endeavorers. On February 1 he addressed an anniversary rally in Auckland. Eighteen youth answered his call for dedication to full-time service. On February 2 Bishop Meadows preached at St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church in Ponsonby.

A special program with a guest speaker in honor of the 83rd birthday was held by Endeavorers of General Baptist Church, Sebree, KENTUCKY, reports Clay M. Conner, secretary-treasurer.

A full week of activities at Paul's Union Church in La Marque, TEXAS, is reported by Susan Manning, Senior Society secretary. Theme for the citizenship banquet January 26 was "Christianity or Communism." Six members spoke on the power and danger of Communism. On February 2 Gray McMillan and the youth choir participated in the morning service and Dudley Latimer and Mike Browning in the evening. At the fellowship period following the service there was a special birthday cake shaped like a Bible.

The three societies of Trinity Evangelical Congregational Church, Boyertown, PENNSYLVANIA, participated in the January 26 morning service. They held a joint banquet January 28 with Rev. James B. Ritter, pastor of Grace Evangelical Congregational Church, Millersville, speaking and all three groups participated in "Everybody's Birthday Party" February 1 in Reading, sponsored by the Berks County Union. Mrs. Philip Schultz is Junior sponsor.

MORE BIRTHDAY EVENTS

Hunterdon County, NEW JERSEY, observed the anniversary with a banquet February 1 at Amwell Church of the Brethren. New Jersey's new field secretary, Rev. James J. Dracup, presented a message on "These My Brethren" which he illustrated with Gospel magic. Union president Jeff Howell and vice-president Bob Polenz also participated, plus John Stephenson, a past president of the New Jersey Union.

Richmond (VIRGINIA) Fellowship held its birthday banquet January 31 at Overbrook Presbyterian Church with Phyllis G. Brown presiding. Program participants included the Virginia president, Mrs. Raymond P. Rusnak; Howard Hill; Elizabeth M. McKnight; Alice Whitley Jones; and the Village Presbyterian Society which gave a skit under the direction of Alice Goodman, counselor.

Endeavorers of Imiola Congregational Church in Kamuela, HAWAII, participated in morning worship February 2, according to report of Rev. Willard E. Thomen, pastor.

A television program, "The Christian Endeavor Story," was presented in costume by youth of Warwood Christian Church, Wheeling, WEST VIRGINIA, at the February 2 evening service. Kenneth Cover presided. To close the program Linda Ratcliffe gave a sketch of Christian Endeavor in the local church and added her own testimony. Mrs. Clarence Brost arranged the program.

Youth of Scott Township General Baptist Church, Evansville, INDIANA, took part in church services on Christian Endeavor Day. Mrs. Kenneth Gibson is sponsor.

Carroll County (MARYLAND) Union featured state president Rev. Howard Yohe of Baltimore at its February 1 banquet in Westminster. President Carroll Tinkler honored five "old timers" who were present—Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Myers, Mr. and Mrs. James E. Shilling, and Mrs. Raymond Shilling. Arthur W. Michael was toastmaster.

The Locust Valley Church of God held a combined program, complete with birthday cake, for the Junior and Senior societies on February 2, according to report of Edwin R. Freed, Middletown, MARYLAND.

Youth of the Evangelical United Brethren Church of Owensesdale, Scottsdale, PENNSYLVANIA, used the radio program script in the prayer services January 29, with Abby Huff and Donna Cramer in charge. Suggested party plans for the week were enjoyed on January 30 and on February 2 members of the society took charge of the Sunday school, each serving as a teacher. Harold Wilson spoke at the morning services and the group visited First Baptist Church in the evening. Carol A. Wiltout is president.

A society organized November 11 used Christian Endeavor Day for its first consecration service. Youth of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Leaskdale, ONTARIO, assisted their student minister, Roy Currie, in the morning service, with Gary Garrison, society president, and Mary Grainger reading Scripture and the entire society forming the choir. The youth were hosts to their families at a potluck supper that evening. The first to sign the pledge during the consecration service was Mrs. Sandy Gray, co-sponsor. Three of the youth also signed.



AN "OUTDOOR POSTER" COSTUME specially tailored for the occasion was worn by Charlotte Fritts at the Alabama rally February 2 at Ensley. Miss Fritts, state outdoor poster chairman, used this unusual dress to promote the program.



Photo by Alice Osgood

FOR THE WATERLOO COUNTY (Ontario), annual birthday banquet Emmanuel Evangelical United Brethren Church, Waterloo, Ruth Perrin was soloist, Rev. Burton Weber (center) Fort Erie was speaker, and Rev. Dedman was chairman.

Sierra Leone Organizes National Union

By Bishop Clyde W. Meadows, President, World's Christian Endeavor Union

The Sierra Leone National Christian Endeavor Union was organized at Mattru Jong on February 22 by electing Edwin G. Sharkah, a teacher of Bumpe Secondary School, as president; J. E. Walters, a teacher at Talia, vice-president; Rebecca King, student in Freetown, secretary; the Christian Education Secretary of the West African United Brethren in Christ Conference, Bernadine L. Hoffman, treasurer; and Rev. F. B. Sharkah, Bumpe, pastor counselor.

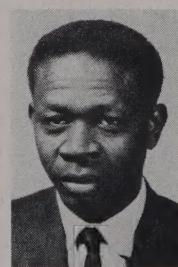
Organizing the Christian Endeavor work in Sierra Leone began with the interest of German Christian Endeavorers under the leadership of Rev. Arno Pagel. An extra missionary offering was taken in the great rally held in Hamburg, Germany, on the occasion of the world president's visit last September. The offering, suggested by the young people themselves, amounted to 1,000 Marks. These funds were used to contact various young people's groups in Sierra Leone under the consecrated leadership of Bernadine Hoffman, a missionary from Michigan. The funds also paid for trucks or lorries chartered to bring young people together in Mattru Jong and for other expenses of a weekend conference on

the occasion of the visit of the world president February 22-23.

Over 400 young people from twelve different areas were present. They had come from as far as 190 miles to share in this first national gathering of Christian Endeavor. A major program feature was the play-off of four Bible quiz teams. The world president spoke on "Why I Believe in Christian Endeavor" and the entire body voted to organize a national union and appointed a nominating committee.

At the evening mass session the nominating committee reported. Since there was a choice in the selection of the president and secretary, there was a lively interest in voting, like that of a political convention.

Another very interesting feature was a parade or march through the town late Saturday afternoon, replete with drum corps, floats, and marching delegations



Edwin G. Sharkah

which ended in the presence of the paramount chief in the town hall. The national anthem "High We Exalt Thee, Realm of the Free" was sung by the delegates and hundreds of interested people who had gathered. The world president spoke on "Christian Endeavor Around the World."

The world president preached in the Saturday and Sunday evening mass sessions to the great crowds which filled the large church, the United Brethren in Christ, with over 400 people, and many who were outside the open doors and windows. There were twenty commitments to Christ the first night and over sixty the closing night. reminded one of a Billy Graham Crusade when splendid young people from various parts of Sierra Leone came forward to give themselves to Christ.

Thus, in a high spirit of evangelical interest and zeal for Christ and the Church, the Sierra Leone National Christian Endeavor Union took its place among the more than sixty countries of the world in which Christian Endeavor is operating. It becomes a part of the World's Christian Endeavor Union with headquarters in Columbus, Ohio, and is affiliated with Area II of which William J. Sharpe of England is general secretary.



NEWS AND VIEWS



Rev. Dracup demonstrates Gospel magic

REV. JAMES J. DRACUP, appointed field secretary of the New Jersey Union February 1, is a pastor, evangelist, and magician. His Christian Endeavor activities began as an intermediate in Old York Road Branch, Philadelphia; later in West Branch he met his wife Mary. While pastor at Alloway Baptist Church, Alloway, New Jersey, Mr. Dracup was a district vice-president. After leaving Alloway he served pastorates in West Virginia and in Pennsylvania. For the last four years he has used his Gospel magic in evangelistic work. He has studied at Philadelphia School of the Bible, Reformed Episcopal Seminary, and Temple University. The Dracups with their children, Elisabeth and Jonathan, live at 32 Dolphin Road, Levittown, Pennsylvania.

ENDEAVORERS in the Middle Atlantic Region will hold their annual conference April 24-26 at The Hotel Madison in Atlantic City, New Jersey. James R. Westerhoff, regional vice-president, has announced the theme as "Through Christ I Can—Build (A Blueprint Activated)." Leaders include Arch J. McQuilkin, Elwood Dunn, Gordon McMordie, Rev. James J. Dracup, Frances M. Becker, B. McClain Cochran, and the three International Society Staff members.

A NEW PRIMARY Christian Endeavor Pledge has just been introduced. Children under 9 years of age can become active members by signing this pledge: Trusting in Jesus to help me, I promise Him that I will try to do what He wants me to do. I will come to every meeting of the society when I can, and will be quiet during the meeting." Pledge cards are available from the International Society at 35c a dozen, \$2.50 a hundred.

• FREEDOMS FOUNDATION has awarded a George Washington Honor Medal to the International Society of Christian Endeavor for its 1963 Christian Citizenship Crusade. Among other awards announced February 22 at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, are honor medals to the Christian Endeavor Society of Somerville United Presbyterian Church, Somerville, Ohio, for its citizenship project of selling American flags and encouraging proper display and use, and to Dr. Daniel K. Poling, minister of The Fort Washington Collegiate Church in New York City and a member of the Executive Committee of the International Society, for his editorial in *CHRISTIAN ECONOMICS* on "Boasting That Leads to Disaster."

Three times in the past Christian Endeavor International has received George Washington Honor Medals from Freedoms Foundation—for its 1954 Christian Citizenship Crusade, for the citizenship emphasis in its 1956 "Christ Shall Reign" program, and for its 1960 Crusade, when an encased medal and a check for \$500 were presented.

• WHEN HE LEARNED of the death of Dr. Toraji Makino, honorary president of the Japan Union of Christian Endeavor, Dr. Daniel A. Poling paid this tribute: "I met this gracious and heroic Christian leader nearly fifty years ago. He was worthily beloved by a multitude of people, and in his long and fruitful life made a major contribution to our Christian faith in Japan and through Christian Endeavor everywhere in the world."

• A NEW MEMBER of the Billy Graham Crusade Team is Rev. Norman H. Pell of Australia. Mr. Pell was organizing secretary and, more recently, national director of the National Christian Endeavor Union of Australia. In his six years of service 1958-1964 he came to be thought of as "Mr. Christian Endeavor" throughout the Commonwealth, according to P. A. R. Chesterton, national secretary. Mr. Pell left for Canada February 15, where he is now working in association with Rev. Leighton Ford.

• The Ridgeville (Indiana) Public Library exists today as a tribute to the vision of the Senior Christian Endeavor Society of the Congregational Church, whose members started the library in 1912. A recent news story reported the

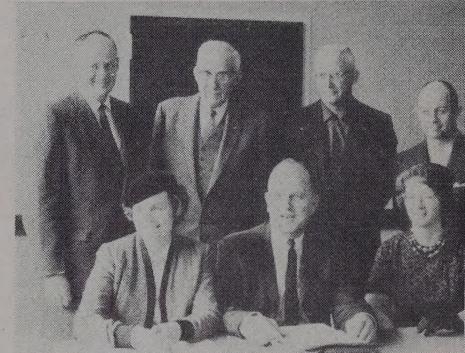


Photo by Connie Eckard

HEADING UP the Dallas Convention Committee, making plans to entertain the 48th International Christian Endeavor Convention in Texas July 6-10, 1965, are (seated, from left) vice-chairman for public relations Mrs. John W. Anthony, general chairman James C. Estes, vice-chairman for registrations Carolyn A. Arnold; (standing, from left) vice-chairman for special activities Gerald Layne, vice-chairman for finance Fred B. Porter, vice-chairman for hospitality B. F. Adair, and treasurer Robert Hanby.

unique beginnings of this library which continues to serve the community.

A HANGI was arranged by Auckland Union Endeavorers on January 30 at Takanini Presbyterian Church. At this outdoor supper (prepared in a ground oven somewhat like a luau) Bishop Clyde W. Meadows enjoyed the opportunity (lower photo) to chat with New Zealand Endeavorers.



Ready - for - YOUTH RESOURCES

A Party Plan

Fun night

By W. Bruce McLeran

Preparation Pointers

- Announce the party at least three weeks in advance; make sure that posters are hung and invitations mailed.
- The social committee should plan the games, the decorations, the refreshments, the clean-up, and the closing devotions.
- A leader and an assistant leader should be appointed. The leader will need a whistle to secure attention and a complete outline of the party and games. The assistant leader should be responsible for all the props needed for the party.
- Plan to play each game no longer than ten minutes; the party will stay alive if games don't drag.
- Alternate your games between active and quiet ones; this will give variety and a chance for everyone to catch his breath.
- Decorations should be simple so that they can be put up and taken down quickly. Crepe paper streamers and colorful balloons can change a room.
- Refreshments will depend upon the place where the party is held. Try a do-it-yourself ice cream contest.

Suggested Games

The group should be divided into two teams to help stimulate competition and enthusiasm. Divide the group by using two different colored tags to denote the two teams.

BALLOON VOLLEYBALL. This is a good starter game as young people begin to arrive. A badminton net or just plain string can be stretched across part of the room using a homemade wooden standard. A dozen round balloons should be on hand as they are easily broken. The rules for the game should be similar to regular volleyball. Keep records of the winning teams and periodically announce these to the group.

SPEED ARTISTS. This game will require a double-sided chalkboard with chalk and erasers. Each team will need to count off 1, 2, 3, etc. At the leader's whistle, number "one" from each team races to the leader who shows each player a word to be depicted on the chalkboard. As soon as each player has seen the word he rushes to his side of the chalkboard and begins to draw furiously. Art ability is no help here; "stick" figures are often guessed just as quickly. The teams will be allowed only five guesses for each word. The player should answer only "Yes" or "No" to the guesses. In order to give each team member a chance in this game, limit the time for depicting each word; 60 seconds would be sufficient.

STAMMER-JAMMER. The only prop for this game is a wrist-watch with a second hand. The two teams should face each other by forming a semicircle. The leader alternately goes up to a member of each team and calls out a letter of the alphabet (except "Q," "X," or "Z"). Each player will have 30 seconds in which to name as many words he can think of that begins with the letter given him. The average number of words given in the 30 second period varies from 7 to 30. The player on each team getting the most words scores a point for his team; these points are added up at the end of the game to determine the winning team.

LEFT-HANDED AUTOGRAPH. Each player will need a pencil and an 8½ by 11 sheet of paper. The players are given three to five minutes (depending upon the size of the group) to get autographs—first and last names—of as many present as possible. The "catch" is that all right-handed persons must write with their

left-hand and vice versa. Only those names that can be read by the individual securing the names can be counted; this will prevent illegible scrawling. The winner will automatically bring victory to his team.

FEATHER-BALL. This game will require two long tables. Opposing team members will kneel facing each other across the table. A feather or Ping-Pong ball is placed in the center of each table. Players must keep their hands behind their backs and at the given signal of the leader, *blow*. The object is for all to try and blow the feather or ball over the other team's goal line (a chalk line drawn down each side of the table, three inches from the edge). When the feather or ball is blown across this line a goal or one point is awarded the scoring team; the ball is then placed in the center and play resumed. Team scores are added up and announced following the game.

HAPPY HOBO RELAY. Two clean empty tin cans will provide the props for this game. The first person on each team is given a tin can to be placed on top of his head. When the starting whistle blows, each player will walk as quickly as possible across the room, around a chair, and back to the starting line. He then hands the can to the next player who will repeat the same procedure. The first team to finish the relay wins. If the can falls off the player's head, he must stop and place it back on his head before resuming his walk.

Closing Moments

Following the last game the scores should be announced. The winning team will be first in line for refreshments. The refreshment committee should be ready to receive the winners and serve refreshments.

The leader and counselor will want to be sure that the party closes at the agreed time. The closing moments should include a brief devotional service with perhaps the singing of choruses, a five minute talk, and prayer. The president should be called upon to announce the next meeting of the society and other future plans.

Bibliography and Resources

The Fun Encyclopedia, by E. O. Harbin, Abingdon, price \$4.95. 1,000 pages of all types of games and parties for all ages.

Fun and Festival from Southeast Asia, by Constance M. Halloran, Friendship Press, paperback, price 75¢; contains games, festivals, songs, recipes, and stories from Southeast Asian countries; others are available from Africa, Middle East, Japan, India, China, and Latin America.

These books may be ordered from the International Society Publishing Department.

Extra copies of the following subjects which have appeared in past issues of **THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD** are available at 15¢ each to cover postage and handling: **Committee Responsibilities**, **Officer Responsibilities**, **The Consecration Meeting**, **Audio-Visuals in Your Society**, **Planning Devotional Services**, **Evangelism Project**, and **Spotlighting: The Devotional Committee**. Orders, accompanied with remittance, should be sent to the Publishing Department, International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216.

Topics

FOR JUNIOR HIGHS

Topic 3 in a Unit: Choosing a Vocation

Follow Your Gleam

Luke 12:35-48

A Playlet

Have a young man come in, sit in the chair and look through the books while he waits for a client. Use three people to come to him for help.

1. A young woman who feels she has been called into Christian service, but he does not want to wait until she is through school. She wants to start to serve now. The counselor tells her of all the avenues of service open to students—summer missions, vacation Bible school, etc.

2. A young man who is undecided about what he should do. He does not feel that he has been called to do a special work, but he does not want his life to be a failure. He is told how important it is to be a Christian whatever he is. In any work he can witness by doing his best, and being honest, conscientious, courteous, and reliable.

3. A young woman who feels that the Lord has called her for something special, but who feels that she has no talent. She is told that if God has called her, He will supply her needs, and that He wants her to dedicate what she has.

Leader's Talk

Dreams are indispensable in the realm of discovery, exploration, and invention. Christopher Columbus saw land long before he touched the shores of our nearby islands; Alexander Graham Bell dreamed of talking over a wire and the telephone is at everyone's elbow; pioneers visualized a prosperous empire and we are enjoying the blessings of a peaceful, bountiful land; Charles A. Lindbergh saw "The Spirit of St. Louis" in France and his first flight across the Atlantic continues to thrill the world. And so one might go on indefinitely.

Napoleon once said, "Imagination rules the world." We are keenly aware of the terrific impact the imaginations (dreams) of men have upon our world. Youth's stock-in-trade are dreams.

Our Aims

1. To envision the role God has for your life.
2. To be ready to pay the price of preparation for a successful career.
3. To "follow the gleam" now in worthwhile jobs and projects.

Edward Bok tells of his visions for a better life for his widowed and poverty-stricken mother. Emigrating from Holland and living against great odds, he dreamed of the day when he could give his mother a better deal. After numerous humbling and difficult tasks he became an office boy, and at seventeen was an editor, later becoming editor of *The Ladies Home Journal*, and vice-president of the Curtis Publishing Company.

The forty-year wilderness experience of Moses was made endurable by the vision of reaching the promised land. The dream of possessing a son and heir kept Abraham's faith keen and bright in spite of the impossible.

John Bunyan in one of the world's greatest allegories, *Pilgrim's Progress*, recorded the vision of Christian in his journey from the "Wicket-Gate" to the "Land of Beulah."

Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service

Hymns: *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life; Give of Your Best to the Master*

Scripture: Psalm 119:1-8

Prayer: by three Junior Hights

Playlet: by four Junior Hights

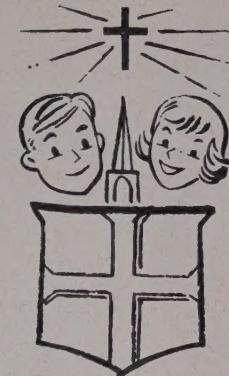
Topic Presentation

Discussion Time

Commitment Service

Hymn: *I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go*

Benediction



Milton in his immortal epic, *Paradise Lost*, sees Lucifer, the archangel, having rebelled against the Almighty, cast into hell, and there to plot the beguilement of the first pair in the garden of Eden and so undermine God's purpose in their creation.

Talks on the Topic

Following the gleam does several things for us:

1. Our Inner Life Is Recreated

We come to realize that the greatest power in the world is not intellectual power but moral and spiritual power. Self-mastery, personal power, self-control coupled with the divine creative power of God may make all of us great moral geniuses. In those moments when we think about truth and honor and devotion and gentleness and generosity and neighborliness and cleanliness and fair play and things of good report, we draw upon the untapped resources of God. And to just that extent we build up our powers of achievement, influence, and will. It all goes back to what the Great Teacher said, that as you think in your heart so are you, for out of your heart—your thoughts—proceed all the energies and purposes and issues of life.

2. A Vision of the Largeness of the Task

Down through the centuries men and women have heard the world's cries of need. In hearing these cries, sensitive souls have been moved to do something to lift conditions for mankind. Those who have "ears by which they hear not" and have been unwilling to respond must receive the condemnation even as when Jesus spoke the words.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

Florence Nightingale heard the cries of need and through her answer did much to change nursing from a disgraceful occupation to an honored profession.

Martha Berry's heart was "wired for sound" as she heard the plea of southern mountain children; "Learn us what you all know." The result today is seen in a splendid Highland Mountains school and in the purposeful lives of hundreds of boys and girls.

Let us envision the world and its needs. We look at India and see it seething with unrest. We look to Africa and find it coming to a new consciousness. We see how great is the work before us. But with the Holy Spirit operative in the world, the vision hours should give us a new assuredness of the inevitable turning of the world toward God.

3. We Receive a Divine Capacity

The vision hours experienced by men and women of old caused them to go forth uttering prophecies which proved divine revelations. The people listened to them and believed them. So it is today. The man who through much prayer and listening to God's voice puts himself in tune with the infinite powers of the universe, is always listened to. Youth listen today not to the man who shouts the loudest but to the one whose life speaks most effectively.

4. We Gain Christ's Outlook

In vision hours Jesus says: "Let me take possession of your life. Let me raise the cross. Let me reign within you and do you be crucified with me." During the war a Christian soldier was wounded. He writhed in agony on the battlefield. When rescued, he seemed to be having a vision. This is what he said, "O Jesus, this is my body, broken for you. I have done this in remembrance of you." Jesus says: "I want you. I want you for myself. I want you for the higher tasks." That is what he is saying to you in these vision hours; forget not your visions.

5. Choose a Vocation We Must

A professor tells of his little girl's question to her Mother after he had left home in a heated mood:

"Do I have to marry a man like Daddy?" she asked. "Do I have to be an old maid like Auntie?" she continued.

When assured that she didn't, that she would make her own choices, she said: "It's an awfully hard world on us women, isn't it?"

It's an awfully hard world on young

Questions for Discussion

1. What are some particular problems which young people face in which they are uncertain about God's guidance? Make a list, and ask for suggestions as to how the Bible would guide in making the right decisions.

2. What do you mean by "letting God speak to you in prayer"?

3. Why is it so difficult to accept suggestions or advice from parents or other adults in matters that seem to be particularly "teen-age" problems?

4. Are there many times when you don't know what is the good and right thing to do in a situation? Or do you lack the determination and courage to follow your conscience?

people who must choose a vocation in this modern world.

Today the youth decides his life vocation for himself. In the earlier days he trained in his father's store or as an apprentice in a shop or on the farm. Today life is complex. Someone estimates there are 100,000 different kinds of jobs.

The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it. From the time Jesus first said that He must be about His Father's business to His death on the cross He remained steadfast to His purpose.

Vocation Test

Test yourself by the purposes of Jesus:

1. Does this vocation meet human need?
2. Is this vocation morally helpful?
3. Am I using my talents?
4. Does it build fellowship?
5. Is it in response to God's will?
6. Am I happy in doing it?

Begin Now

Consider some ways to follow the gleam during the summer months in your Christian witness, in services at institutions, in work projects, in part-time jobs, etc. Consider the need to continue educational and spiritual preparation that will keep the gleam alive.

If you will follow the gleam in this realm you will:

1. Give your best efforts to all school-work. You are preparing to be a world citizen in the space age. Take as many foreign languages as you can.
2. Work closely with your church; share its responsibilities. Your world citizenship work can start now.
3. Have fun, especially in the home and with your own family.
4. Work at cultivating a good sense of humor. It can be done and will be one of your more valuable assets throughout life.

5. Be curious about all vocations. Look about you—in your town, your state, your nation. Read about various kinds of jobs. Which persons are doing jobs which seem to have human values as well as an adequate pay check?

6. Choose two or three adults whose judgments you respect—a teacher, your pastor, a neighbor—and consult them occasionally about this mysterious future yours. They will be glad to help you.

7. Take aptitude tests. Most schools now give them. But remember test results only point the way. David Livingstone, missionary to Africa, was advised in his youth to forget about Africa because he was incapable of delivering a sermon!

8. Ask God to show you where he wants you to serve, whether in a secular or church related vocation.

Illustrations

An incident in the life of Joan of Arc is illustrated in a play by George Bernard Shaw. Following the coronation of King Charles, Joan announces that the voices she has been hearing are telling her to lead the nation on to complete victory. She urges the people to persevere, so confident is she of her ground. The stupid king replies: "Your voices, your voices! Why don't your voices come to me? I am king, not you."

Joan of Arc in reply utters what we know to be true in our relationship to God. She says: "They do come to you, but you do not hear them."

Men throughout the ages have followed the gleam. Think of Bible youth: Joseph, Daniel, Samuel, Isaiah, Christ. All knew there were momentous events in their lives. Remember the Bible says of Jesus—"As it was custom was" (as His habit was). What do He do?

1. He read the Scripture.
2. He went out to pray.
3. He went out to teach.

These were the periods of Jesus' life when he reaffirmed the positive things in his life. These periods aided his mental and spiritual approach to the problems at hand.

The opportunity to have such vision hours is the most glorious thing in life. The power to choose what we will do and accomplish is the most God-like thing in youth after all.

Daily Bible Readings

M. Apr. 27 Moses' Charge to Joshua Deuteronomy 31:16
T. Apr. 28 David's Charge to Solomon I Kings 2:1
W. Apr. 29 Jehoshaphat's Charge to Leaders II Chronicles 19:8
T. Apr. 30 Christ's Charge to Disciples Matthew 10:37
F. May 1 Paul's Charge to Timothy I Timothy 6:13
S. May 2 Peter's Charge to the Church I Peter 1:3
Sun. May 3—Topic: Follow Your Gleam Luke 12:35

Comments by Dr. Raymond M. Veh, editor
BUILDERS, Evangelical United Brethren youth magazine

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD

Mother, et cetera

Proverbs 31:10-28

(Mother's Day)

Publicity Plans

Have someone who is capable to prepare a cartoon-type poster showing a woman in her kitchen. Something is cooking on the stove; the vacuum cleaner is in sight; the ironing board is up and a huge pile of clothes in evidence. (Pictures may be cut from advertisements, newspapers, or catalogs.) The mother fastening a band aid on a child. Two teenagers have questioning looks and the points to one of the areas of work: cooking, ironing, cleaning. The caption on the cartoon reads, "No! I'd rather do it myself."

Print the title of the Mother's Day pic, time, and place, and add, "Junior High! You and your mother are especially invited."

As a variation of the poster announcement (or in addition to it) you may wish to make a skit announcement during the opening worship in your Sunday school department. Two teens could take part.

1ST TEEN: (as though continuing a conversation) You were saying your Mom doesn't work. Do you mean she doesn't have a regular job? In an office or something?

2ND TEEN: That's what I said, but you didn't let me finish. My Mom has even jobs.

1ST TEEN: Now I know you must be addin'.

2ND TEEN: No, I'm not. You come to Christian Endeavor tonight. You'll find I'm right.

for the Leader

Ask seven Junior Highs (or fewer if the group is too small and assign more than one part to each) to take part in playlet *My Mother Is a . . .*

Invite your minister's wife or another lady who is vitally interested in your young people, a mother in the congregation, one boy, and one girl, to form a panel. Be sure to give them the points of discussion at least two weeks before the meeting.

1. (for the mothers taking part) "Are you a 'I'd rather do it myself' mother? Are you sincere in this, or do you complain that 'my kids never offer to help,' while refusing their help?"

2. (for the Junior Highs taking part) Could you be more willing to help with

Our Aims

1. To give Junior Highs a new realization of all the roles their mothers must play.
2. To lead Junior Highs and their mothers into closer understanding.
3. To motivate Junior High Christians to serve Christ by their actions at home.

home duties if these were clearly defined for you—if you knew exactly what is expected of you instead of being expected to read your mother's mind?

3. (for Junior Highs and mothers) Does being a Christian affect my attitudes to others in my home? How much can I—a teenager/I, a mother—expect of my Christian son or daughter/mother?

Questions from the group should then be encouraged, keeping them to the point and addressing them to specific panelists. Steer the questions into the direction of Christian responsibility for example, "If I am a Christian and my sister is not, do I have to do more to help than she

Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service

Call to Worship: Psalm 34:3

Hymns: **Faith of Our Fathers; My Jesus, I Love Thee*

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 31:10-25

Prayer: by a member of the devotional committee

Welcome to Guests: (mothers)

Announcement and Offering

Chorus: *Let the Beauty of Jesus*

Quiz: *Mothers in the Bible*

Special Music: Ask two of your members to sing an appropriate Mother's Day duet

Quiet Hour Emphasis

Sentence Prayers: (suggest thanks be offered to God for Christian mothers)

Playlet: *My Mother Is a . . .*

Leader's Introduction

Panel Discussion

Hymn: *For the Beauty of the Earth*, verses 1 and 3, with emphasis on "For the joy of human love, parent . . ."

Benediction

**Faith of Our Mothers* may be substituted.



does?" "What if I am the only Christian in my home and my mother picks on me and says, 'that's a Christian for you!' every time I make the least little slip?"

Allow as much time as possible for discussion.

Before your closing comments and refreshments (if these are planned) thank each panelist and have one of the young people present the flowers or plants to your two guests.

Pray earnestly that this meeting will be a challenge to both Junior Highs and their mothers.

For the Counselor

This meeting can be important in the everyday lives of your Junior Highs. Their mothers may not, for various reasons, measure up to the "ideal" mother. However, this program should help them to consider the positive worth of their own mother. It should also lead logically, for Christian Junior Highs, to a consideration of their own part in the smooth running of the home. It should motivate the Junior Highs who may not have a Christian mother, to better cooperation in the hope that they will reach their mother for Christ by their actions at home. Work with the leader and each participant to ensure an effective presentation.

Pray that this Mother's Day program will be more than sentiment; that it will be Christian character building.

Leader's Introduction

As we listened to the Scripture were you thinking, as I was, that women today have an easier time than they had in the "good old days" when the Bible was written? (You may wish to refer to Proverbs 31:13,15a,16,19,22,24, as unlikely duties for mothers today.)

Actually 1964 mothers have many more responsibilities than their own grandmothers had. The mother has always been vital to the Christian home.

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Playlet—My Mother Is a . . .

(This may either be presented as a flannelgraph scene with each participant preparing flannel-backed pictures of the objects used, or the participant may bring actual objects to the front of the room as each one in turn comes to say his or her part. If a flannelgraph is used, the scene should be a plain background with a cutout of an attractive woman the appropriate age for a mother of a Junior High; each person would then add the objects to the scene as he or she speaks.)

NURSE (with thermometer, pill box, band aids): My mother is a nurse. She takes my temperature and makes me take pills.

ACCOUNTANT (has bank book, loose checks, budget sheet): My mom is a bookkeeper and accountant. It's a good thing she can stretch a dollar.

DRESSMAKER (has scissors, thimble, pattern book, etc.): Am I ever glad my mom is a dressmaker. She sews like a professional and I'm the envy of all my friends.

FAVORITE FOOD (pictures, in this case: apple pie, fried chicken): Boy! My mom's the world's best cook. Can she bake pies? And her fried chicken's the greatest.

CHAUFFEUR (boy with model car): My mom is the best driver I know, even if folks poke fun at women drivers. She tells us that breaking traffic laws is kid stuff. I want to be as good a driver as she when I get my license.

TEACHER (has text books and other school paraphernalia): I'd be out of luck lots of times if my mom wasn't as good as any teacher. She helps me with spelling especially. Of course, nobody can know everything, so she's not so hot on math.

PREACHER (with Bible): You might say my mother is a preacher. Oh, not the kind that sits you down and preaches at you. No! I guess my mom's a kind of living sermon. She practices what she preaches. She reads the Bible to us, but more, she lives like a Christian.

(As the last of the seven goes back to his seat, the leader steps up to the front.)

LEADER: (Refer to the list of duties already alluded to then ask the group to suggest other things that their mothers may have to do around the house—plumbing, carpentry, shopping, gardening, decorating, etc.)

Introduce the panel (see *Leader's Introduction* and add) We have invited two guests to give us their ideas of how we can cooperate in some of these many duties that mothers have. Two of our own young people will also take part in this panel discussion.

The panel takes seats at a table facing the group.

A MOTHER: (to speak three minutes on the topic, "I'd rather do it myself.")

MINISTER'S WIFE: (to speak three minutes on the opposing viewpoint, "Let the young people help—but show them how.")

GIRL: (to speak three minutes on her views of helping at home.)

BOY: (to speak three minutes on his views of helping at home.)

Quiz on Bible Mothers

1. Moses' mother was _____.
2. _____ prayed for a son.
3. The first mother was _____.
4. The mother of _____ was ambitious for her two sons.
5. _____ showed favoritism.
6. _____ taught the Scriptures to her son.
7. John the Baptist's mother was _____.
8. Isaac's mother was _____.
9. Timothy's grandmother's name was _____.
10. _____ is the most famous mother in history.

ANSWERS

1. Jochebed (Numbers 26:59)
2. Hannah (I Samuel 1:11)
3. Eve (Genesis 3:20)
4. Mother of Zebedee's children (said to be Salome; Matthew 21:20,21)
5. Rebekah (Genesis 27:1-10; 25:28b)
6. Eunice (II Timothy 3:15)
7. Elisabeth (Luke 1:13)
8. Sarah (Genesis 21:3)
9. Lois (II Timothy 1:5)
10. Mary (Luke 1:28)

Score five points for each correct answer given and an additional five points each time the correct book of the Bible is given as well as the correct answer. Acknowledge the winner of the quiz with a Christian Endeavor ball-point pen.

Leader's Closing Comments

I am sure we have all had some things made clear to us as we've talked over our responsibilities in our homes. We've also realized how much is involved in being the mother in our homes.

The Bible has two good pieces of advice to offer. One is in Ephesians and it concerns all of us, young people and mothers too. Listen "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." And, "Parents: (fathers) provoke not your children to wrath, but

bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:1,2) This shows us that parent-children relationships are a "two-way street" and that both have to work at it.

The other Bible verse is Matthew 5:16. We could probably all say it together, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." This advice likewise is for mothers as well as Junior Highs.

Committee Activities

LOOKOUT COMMITTEE: Be sure to invite newcomers and their mothers to this special meeting.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: If facilities and time permit, plan for light refreshments to be served to the mothers visiting. (Doubtless the mothers are not completely scripted to prepare these.)

Procure two inexpensive plants or bouquets for the guest panelists.

Talk the program over with the participants, pointing out that since you expect to have guests, they will want to do their best.

Go over with each one in detail the expected "props" he or she will need for the part of the playlet, as well as the ideas for the panel discussion.

You will want to rehearse your own introduction to the topic, your welcome to the guests, and any closing comments after the panel finishes.

Daily Bible Readings

M. May 4	Parents Are Teachers	Deuteronomy 6:3
T. May 5	Parents Are Providers	II Corinthians 12:14
W. May 6	Parents Are Examples	II Timothy 1:12
T. May 7	Parents Chasten Children	Hebrews 12:5
F. May 8	A Dedicated Family	I Samuel 1:24
S. May 9	Women's Influence	Titus 2:4
Sun. May 10	Topic: Mother, et cetera	Proverbs 31:10

(Mother's Day)

Comments by Mrs. Ernest A. Lockerbie
Huntington Beach, California



Mrs. Lockerbie is a freelance writer as well as minister's wife and homemaker. She has a daughter who is a missionary nurse in East Pakistan and a son who is chairman of English at the Stony Brook School. Mrs. Lockerbie's husband is an area representative for the Regular Baptist Church. She writes a number of groups including the Regular Baptist Press, David C. Cook and Scripture Press. Her first novel *On Your Mark* was recently published by Zondervan. A daily devotional book for nurses will soon be released by Moody Press. Mrs. Lockerbie is a group leader for the Christian Endeavor Society at St. Andrew Church, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Topic 1 in a Unit: Heroes of the Church

Heroes of the Past

Acts 2:1-8,38-41

(Pentecost)

Publicity Plans

Secure a number of symbols of the Holy Spirit and use them on a poster. Letter the poster with the words: "Come to Christian Endeavor and Learn How Heroes of the Past Were Able to Witness for Christ." Remember to list the leader, time, and place. Send out postcards with the picture of dove on them and the words: "Come to Christian Endeavor this week and learn the meaning of this symbol in the lives of heroes of the Past."

Carry out the theme of Pentecost in the worship center also using symbols of the Holy Spirit.

Leader's Preparation

You will be dealing this Sunday with one of the most important days of the church year. It is true that generally speaking more attention has been focused on Christmas and Easter. Perhaps one reason is that these days have been highly commercialized. However in the modern church age Pentecost is very important. Outside the brief material you will find in this topic you might consult a standard Bible dictionary on the subject of Pentecost such as the *Davis Bible Dictionary* or Zondervan's *Encyclopedic Bible Dictionary*. It will also be helpful to consult some book on church symbolism such as *Christian Symbolism* by Thomas Stafford.

The daily Bible readings for this week give us a glimpse of some of the men who were changed by the Holy Spirit. Select members of the society to present "two-minute-sketches" on individuals such as: Peter, John, Philip, Paul, Barnabas, and James. A Bible dictionary will be helpful in getting additional information about each individual hero.

Pentecost

Pentecost was the Jewish Feast of Weeks (Exodus 34:22; Deuteronomy 16:9-11). It celebrated with appropriate ritual and ceremony the firstfruits of the corn harvest, the last Palestinian crop to ripen. The word *Pentecost* derives from the Greek meaning "fiftieth" because it fell on the fiftieth day after the Feast of Passover. Later in the topic it will be noted that this day was marked by the descent of the Holy Spirit on the early Christians in Jerusalem. The Sunday has also been called Whitsunday or white-

Our Aims

1. To understand how the Holy Spirit affected the disciples at Pentecost.
2. To understand the meaning of heroism.

Sunday in view of the fact that the candidates who were baptized on that day in the church wore white robes. The liturgical color of Pentecost is red representing blood, fire, Christian zeal, and the work and ministry of the church.

If you can find them, it might be interesting to have someone make several Pentecost symbols such as the descending dove, the seven-tongued flame, or the seven lamps. (See Revelation 1:4,5.)

Introducing the Topic

(Ask for a definition of the word, "hero.") Here is a dictionary definition: A person of distinguished valor or fortitude. There are many people we think of as heroes. (You might have those present name some). Sometimes our heroes represent great historical figures such as Luther or Lincoln. Sometimes they are great athletes, great soldiers, explorers or scientists. Sometimes, unfortunately, they may represent idols of the entertainment world. Have you per-

Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service

Song Service: *Crown Him with Many Crowns; With Thy Spirit Fill Me; Spirit of the Living God*

Announcements

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-8, 38-41

Hymn: *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

Sentence Prayers: (all members should

be encouraged to participate; conclude this period of prayer with the singing of *Prayer Response*)

Leader's Introduction

Talks on the Topic

Discussion Time

Leader's Conclusion

Offering

Hymn: *Are Ye Able, Said the Master*
Mizpah Benediction



haps ever heard some one say of a boyfriend "He is my hero"? Have you ever thought of the early disciples or Christians as heroes?

Talks on the Topic

Bible Heroes

Read the list of great names in the Bible. Peter, James, and John were only simple unlettered fishermen. Matthew was a hated tax collector. Saul, later called Paul, was a brilliant young persecutor and hater of the early church. This roll call does not sound very impressive, nor was it. Peter was a man of apparent violent temper (Mark 14:47), quick tongue (Mark 14:29) and yet, a denyer of his dearest Friend. James and John were called sons of thunder (Mark 3:17), and Paul was early distinguished as the church-wrecker (Acts 9:13-14). If you had asked these men the question "Do you consider yourself to be a hero?" some, who might have been tempted to answer yes would certainly have admitted, after the experience in Gethsemane, that there was very little heroism in their makeup. Perhaps many of us can imagine ourselves doing great and noble deeds, but at the point of actual performance we all fail.

The Object of Their Heroism?

If we are going to ask what made these men heroes we will also have to understand what it was that drove them on to do great and mighty deeds. The simplest answer is that these men believed in Jesus Christ. Note Peter's confession, for example, in Matthew 16:16, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

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This was also the testimony of Peter and John (Acts 4:12 and 20). Jesus Christ was the center of the confession of the Bible heroes. Because He was strong, they were strong. How important it is for us to realize that our hope and strength comes from Jesus Christ alone. The fact that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and has offered Himself for our sins is the reason for our worship and love of Him.

The Power of Their Heroism

At this point it is important to see and understand the meaning of Pentecost for the Christian Church. You will remember that Jesus spoke of the necessity of his ascension to heaven in order that the Holy Spirit might come. This is what occurred on Pentecost. (Have someone read the account from Acts 2:1-8, 38-41).

What do you think was the meaning of the various signs present at Pentecost?

(1) "The sound as of a rushing mighty wind." A casual reading of this passage might lead to the conclusion that the wind blew very hard. Actually it was only a sound. The word wind and Spirit in the Bible have a common root, *pneuma*. This might therefore be a symbol of the presence and power of God.

(2) "Cloven tongues as of fire." Again we ought to remember that there was no fire only the appearance of fire. This might be a symbol of burning zeal.

(3) "Speaking with tongues." This has been much discussed in the church. The proper interpretation is that undoubtedly these Christians did speak in other languages. (Note Acts 2:8-11.) This was the Holy Spirit's counterpart to the tower of Babel. Today the Bible is being translated into many languages and dialects by the hard work of dedicated Christians. Nevertheless, even this ability to understand and use another tongue is a gift of God's Spirit.

It ought to be said that the Holy Spirit, according to the historic teaching of the Christian Church, is the third person of the Trinity. He is resident in the hearts of God's people. (Note such passages as Ephesians 1:13, 14 and Romans 8:14-16.) This Spirit empowers Christians and enables them to witness without compromise and without fear of the consequences.

Men Changed by the Spirit

A remarkable change took place in the life and witness of the Christian Church. Men who were weak as water became mighty in word and deed. Look at Peter, for example, in Mark 14:71, he says, "I

Questions for Discussion

1. How can you be a hero in today's world?
2. What other individuals can you name and tell about who lived in the first century church?
3. How can you possess the Holy Spirit?
4. How can the Holy Spirit possess you?
5. What kind of witness did Ananias and Sapphira give for Christ?
6. In what ways can we witness against Christ?

know not this man," but in Acts 2 he is the evangelist and as a result 3,000 are saved. Or take Paul. He proved to Damascus "breathing out threatenings and slaughter" but he leaves the city in a basket after badly proclaiming Jesus Christ at the risk of his own life. Men were *changed* by the Holy Spirit. They received power to testify.

Leader's Conclusion

In order to be a hero, if you can actually resolve to be one, in the Christian sense you must begin by admitting your own helplessness. Of course, this is quite different from the knights of the round table. Yet a Christian recognizes that he can do nothing in himself (John 15:5b), but in Christ he can do all things. (Philippians 4:13). A Christian hero, then, is obedient. He follows his leader wherever he is sent. It is because men obey commands in battle, no matter how difficult, that they become heroes. We must go where He sends us.

A Christian hero shows a willingness to serve. There is no such thing as reluctant heroism. You have never heard of a hero behind whom someone was busy pushing and saying, "Come on now be a hero!" No, a Christian hero shows no reluctance. A Bible hero is joyful. He gladly tells the wonderful message of salvation everywhere that all the world may hear.

As far as the world is concerned the heroes we are considering were not really very important. In fact Paul tells us that he and the Apostles were the offscouring and filth of the earth (I Corinthians 4:13), as far as the world was concerned. His own life was a testimony to the miserable treatment he received (II Corinthians 11:24-28). These men in the Bible went about establishing the Kingdom of God and preaching the good news of salvation. It was their faithfulness that brought the Gospel from Palestine to Asia Minor, then to Rome and Europe, then to North America and eventually to us.

Do you think these men consider themselves to be heroes? If they had been asked this question they would have been the last to consider themselves great men. Yet God's evaluation of greatness and that of the world or of our own is quite different. "It is required in stewardship that a man be found faithful" (I Corinthians 4:2). God promised no palaces, wealth, and no fame.

For an earthly hero the reward may consist in a monument, or a building named in his honor. But how quickly the greatness of heroes disappear. The disciples were glad once upon a time that the devils were subject to them. Jesus told them rather to rejoice that their names were written in heaven. Paul speaks of the crown of righteousness that never fades that God will give to all true Bible heroes. (Note II Timothy 4:7,8). Our real reward comes when we shall see *Him* whom we have loved and served and shall live in His presence forever.



The dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit (see Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22; John 1:32). The equilateral triangle is a symbol of the Trinity.

Daily Bible Readings

M. May 11	Peter and John, Preachers	Acts 4:1-12
T. May 12	Philip, Evangelist	Acts 8:5-12
W. May 13	Philip, Personal Worker	Acts 8:26-39
T. May 14	Paul and Barnabas, Missionaries	Acts 13:1-14
F. May 15	James, Leader at Jerusalem	Acts 15:5-11
S. May 16	A Roll Call of Faithful	Romans 16:1-15
Sun. May 17—Topic: Heroes of the Past		Acts 2:1-8, 38-41

Comments by Dr. Jerome DeJong, minister of the Immanuel Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan

Hymns listed in program outlines in THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD have been selected from the new CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SONGS. This book, with an attractive orange and black krome-kote cover, contains 138 songs and hymns and 20 responsive Scripture readings for youth meetings. Available from International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216. Price: 60c each, \$6 per dozen, \$48 per hundred.

Topic 2 in a Unit: Heroes of the Church

Laymen Who Led

Acts 6:1-8; 7:55-60

Publicity Ideas

On the Sunday preceding the meeting, our Christian Endeavor bulletin board should be ready to advertise this meeting. Coming events are supposed to cast their shadows before them, so make this coming event known by use of a shadow box constructed the size of the bulletin board. At the top of the shadow box, fix curtains that will draw back on a cord. Printed largely and neatly across the very top have this message "Pull the curtains and see what is in your future." Inside the shadow box have suspended from the top a large eye, a large ear, and a large pair of lips all as lifelike in coloring as possible. Hanging from the eye have a placard which reads: "Come, use your eyes." The placard hanging from the ear should read: "Linger and let us have access to you through your ears." The third placard should be suspended from the lips. It should bear the message: "We'll use our lips to help you." In the most conspicuous place possible in the shadow box, place a poster advertising the time and place of the meeting.

In addition to the advertising on the bulletin board, two promotional activities on Sunday would be of help:

1. Have a "time capsule" ready to pin on each Endeavorer who is present in Sunday school on Sunday morning. The "time capsule" would be a large plastic medicine capsule which has been stuffed with a printed announcement of the meeting. These capsules can be obtained from a veterinarian.

2. The lookout committee should be alerted to contact by personal calls or telephone calls every member who is not out for Sunday school. They should arrange the transportation of those who could not come otherwise.

For the Leader

Congratulations upon being chosen leader of this wonderful topic. Yours is to be the thrill of making laymen, who may have just been names, live before your fellow Christian Endeavorers. It is no small task, but you will have accomplished so much when it is finished. Do start your plans and preparation well ahead of the appointed day. Then, when the appointed hour arrives you will be ready and waiting.

Sit down with your counselor and talk over your plans. Put your thoughts down on paper for ready reference. Decide something for every moment of the hour, then carry those decisions out. Contact everyone who is to help you, giving them plenty of advance notice. Put in writing the assignments you wish them to carry out so there will be no slip-ups. Check and re-check their progress; give them all the assistance that they need. Be sure that you have at least one meeting with your participants to put the meeting together, and so that they can see where they fit in to it, and you can see how it is going. Be much in prayer through all your preparation.

Our Aims

1. To acquaint Junior High Christian Endeavorers with famous laymen who have led effectively in various phases of church life.
2. To initiate or strengthen a desire within each Endeavorer's heart to grow up to be of service to Christ and the Church regardless of the vocation chosen.



Thoughts for the Leader's Introduction

In the Jewish way of life, those who served as priests were men born into the tribe of Levi. Since Christ was of the lineage of David, and not from the Levitical tribe, He was not a priest as far as the Jews were concerned. He was a layman. If that be so, as such He was a Layman Extraordinary.

His vocation was that of a carpenter. There would be nothing slipshod that bore His trademark. He would see to it that everything He built was as perfect as His hands could fashion it. After years of quiet work and thought, He laid aside the tools of His earthly trade, to follow where His Heavenly Father led. As He had been in subjection to His earthly father, He was now in subjection to the will of His Heavenly Father. Every moment of the rest of His earthly life was lived in service to Him who had sent Him into the world. He healed — and so many needed healing. He loved — there

was no end to the ones who needed loving. He walked — many were the miles He willingly covered to serve His Heavenly Father. He taught — in so many ways He taught: by example, by precept, by parable, by demonstration. Among other truths, He said: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). Then, to show absolute convincing proof of it, He mounted Calvary's hill there to lay down His life for His friends, among whom we are included. Thus, the Son of God, became the greatest layman that ever lived. All that Christ asks of any of us is that we follow Him when we claim Him. He challenges every person, lay person or otherwise, to serve Him in His church and among His own.

Notes on Program Outline

PRE-PRAYER SERVICE: Any layman or lay-woman who has been a power for Christ and the Church, regardless of his or her field of labor, would willingly bear witness to the fact that prayer has been the source of that power. Have your devotional committee prepare this particular pre-prayer service with this in mind. Have the leader of the pre-prayer service spend the first five minutes giving the testimonies of famous Christians to the power of prayer. Then spend the last ten minutes in prayer seeking God's presence and power for the meeting that will follow.

SCRIPTURE READING: Faith has been another attribute of the great lay leaders all down the centuries. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6) Select from your Junior

Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service

Song Service: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah; Trusting Jesus; Are Ye Able, Said the Master;*

Scripture Lesson: Acts 6:1-8; 7:55-60

Hymn: *My Faith Looks up to Thee*

Sentence Prayers

Offering and Announcements

Leader's Introduction

Biographical Buzz

Discussion Time

Hymn: *In the Service of the King*

Recognition of a Layman

Closing Hymn: *Living for Jesus*

Mizpah Benediction

(Continued on next page)

High Christian Endeavor membership an excellent oral reader. Have this reader, the meeting leader, and your minister sit down together and select the Scripture readings from the 11th chapter of Hebrews; enough to adequately set the background for the meeting, but not so much that it becomes lengthy.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TOPIC: Ask your minister to give a talk (not to exceed five minutes) that will introduce the general subject of lay leadership. Be sure he understands that you want a general approach to the topic, lest, in being specific, he might duplicate material that will be brought by others during the *Biographical Buzz*. It would be wise to explain to him the nature of the rest of your meeting so that he can fit his remarks into your plans.

BIOGRAPHICAL BUZZ: Since most of the meeting will be centered around this section, it should be well planned and timed. Decide how much time each section of your program will take, then plan this part to use the time allocated to it most effectively. In order to eliminate the possibility of boredom, as well as to strengthen the teaching, have each member who participates in the *Biographical Buzz* undergird his presentation with some form of audio-visual help. Since 80 percent of what we learn reaches our minds through our eyes, this phase of the presentation is of utmost importance and should be seen as well as heard.

There are several ways in which the selection of biographies of laymen who led can be incorporated into your program.

1. You could select an outstanding lay leader from each of the countries where your own denomination or communion is active. This would make it a *Mission Biographical Buzz*. They could be from other churches too, if they are well-known enough and resource material is available. Dr. Victor Ramboo of India, and Dr. Wilfred Grenfell of Labrador are good examples for this category.

2. If you would like to stress a *Stewardship Biographical Buzz* you could select outstanding examples of Christian laymen who have been wealthy in this world's goods, but who, at the same time, were wealthy toward God in the way that they shared their wealth with Him and with His. Outstanding examples in this field are R. G. LeTourneau, A. A. Hyde, and J. C. Penney.

3. Perhaps your group would be interested in using lay people who have led

Questions for Discussion

1. What are some of the qualities found in the lives of laymen who have led?
2. How were these qualities acquired?
3. Can people serve God as effectively by being a layman rather than a pastor? Why your answer?
4. Name ways in which you can witness for Christ and the Church now.

in different countries in the area of politics by using their influence as they stood firm for Christ. One example is Generallissimo and Madame Chiang Kai-shek.

4. Christian authors who, as laymen, have used their pens as witnesses for Christ could make up another means of selecting the biographies to be used. Fanny Crosby, Dr. Daniel A. Poling, Catherine Marshall, Lloyd Douglas, Grace Livingston Hill Lutz, and Eugenia Price are some that could be used.

5. Christian lay athletes who testify by their lives to the power of Christ would make another category, Glen Cunningham, Alvin Dark, and Bud Wilkinson are just a few of the many.

6. Social service lay leaders have always been a power for Christ as they labor among the needy. It would be possible to find enough from this field to make a good *Biographical Buzz*. Jane Addams of Hull House and General Booth of the Salvation Army are just two outstanding examples in this area.

7. It would also be possible to select one person from each of the above categories, or additional ones, to build your *Biographical Buzz* thus making it representative of several areas.

Select the laymen you wish to use, then select a Junior High Christian Endeavorer to represent each one. Three minutes apiece should be ample time for each one to speak. The counselor should attempt to help each youth in the work of preparation, securing reference material, and choosing the best and most interesting facts. It should be woven into a good biography aided by some form of a visual aid.

Have a "dress rehearsal" on the Saturday before the meeting to make sure that everyone is ready and that everything works! The speakers should be able to speak without notes if they make good use of visual aids. Make sure that a variety of visual aids are used. An opaque projector could be used by one to project pictures and data on the wall;

another person could build a good filigree story through the use of words and pictures; still another could use a filmstrip of a famous layman. A genuinity could turn a cardboard box into a TV set in which large drawings could be pulled through as illustrative material. A series of flat pictures, attractively framed, could be used by another. A three minute puppet presentation could also be used.

Make sure that every biography in the *Biographical Buzz* points out graphically how the individual was led by, and served, Christ.

Recognition of a Layman

Since concrete reality is always more interesting than abstract facts, it would prove interesting for the Junior High to devote a few minutes during this meeting to the recognition of a well-known devoted layman or laywoman from the congregation. The devotional committee in cooperation with the minister, could select the one to be honored; or the entire Junior High society could make the selection secretly, ahead of time.

The honored person could be lured into attending the meeting, thus being surprised as well as honored. An appropriate book would be an appreciated gift.

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Living Miracles by James C. Hefley (Zondervan)
The Goal and the Glory by Ted Simonson (Fleming H. Revell)
Personalities Around Jesus by William J. Barker (Fleming H. Revell)
Christians You Should Know by Johnson (Moody Press)

Daily Bible Readings

M. May 18 Dorcas, Woman of Good Works Acts 9:36-43
T. May 19 Aquila and Priscilla, Instructors Acts 18:24
W. May 20 Luke, Beloved Physician Colossians 4:11
T. May 21 Paul's Friends II Timothy 4:10-12
F. May 22 Onesimus, Runaway Slave Philemon 10-16
S. May 23 Paul's Fellow Laborers Philemon 23-25
Sun. May 24—Topic: Laymen Who Led Acts 6:1-8; 7:55-58

Comments by Mrs. Newell Morgan, a grade school teacher in Boise, Idaho, and wife of the minister of First Christian Church



Topic 3 in a Unit: Heroes of the Church

Wanted: New Heroes

Romans 12:1-15



Publicity Plans

Secure from the parents of your society members a small snapshot of each member. Use these on a giant "WANTED" sign to be posted in a conspicuous place in the church. Be sure to list all the necessary information concerning the topic, leader, time, and place. Personal invitations can also be in the form of "WANTED" hand-sills.

For the Leader

Begin the topic presentation by using the "Skits". Junior Highs who will participate in the skits should be given their assignments two weeks before the meeting.

Examples of modern day heroes can be presented by four or five members. Allow each person three minutes; the presentation can be made more interesting using a TV newscast format. Use missionaries now serving your denomination or communion or famous missionaries such as: John and Betty Stott, Jim Elliott, and Nate Saint.

Proposed Skits

This topic may be very doctrinal but also practical. The important thing is to illustrate practical situations and how they should be met by Christian Junior Highs.

This skit illustrates Junior Highs and their practical application of Christian truth. Have someone read James 2:15,16.

(The scene presents a Christian Endeavor society discussing a project for the group.)

LEADER: We have just read about practical Christianity. How can we best serve our church as members of the Christian Endeavor society?

MEMBER: I suggest we buy some new books for the church library, everyone knows we need them and they certainly represent practical Christianity.

MEMBER: I recommend some new dishes for the kitchen. We certainly use them enough and that's practical.

MEMBER: No, how about some toys for the nursery?

(General discussion ensues everyone suggesting their own "pet" project.)

COUNSELOR: Just a minute! Just a minute! How about helping the Jones (or any other name you might like). These people are very poor. They have had a great deal of sickness and the father has been out of work.

MEMBER: Do they come to our church?

COUNSELOR: Not often but....

MEMBER: But do you think we should give the church's money to non-members?

MEMBER: I wonder if this is not what Jesus would do. Perhaps if we show these people what Christianity really is they will be interested in coming to the church more faithfully.

COUNSELOR: Yes, young people, I believe this is practical, down-to-earth Christianity.

MEMBER: Good! I move we give them money to buy food.

ALL: Approved! Approved. (General discussion follows.)

2. This skit illustrates practical Christianity in terms of common attitude toward others.

(The scene opens just before a Christian Endeavor meeting. Several girls are talking.)

GIRL 1: Our Christian Endeavor group certainly has not been the same since that poor Mary (or any other name you want to suggest) joined our group.

GIRL 2: You are right. Boy, are her clothes ever old-fashioned. I wouldn't wear them to a dog fight.

GIRL 3: (Giggling) And isn't her hair awful — those old-fashioned bangs. You would think she had come from the old country.

(Giggling ensues; the subject of the conversation enters.)

MARY: Hi girls, how are you tonight?

GIRLS: (glumly): Oh hello! (They continue their conversation with heads together and their backs toward Mary.)

COUNSELOR: Why hello Mary! I see you have come again tonight. Have you met all the girls?

MARY: Yes, Ma'am. I think it is wonderful to have such a fine group.

(Girls look askance at Mary and continue the cold shoulder treatment.)

(Several weeks pass and Christian Endeavor meets again.)

GIRL 1: Hi girls! Say, have you seen that Mary lately?

GIRL 2: No I haven't. I'd say good riddance. She was so different anyway.

GIRL 3: You're right. (A general discussion ensues until the counselor enters.)

COUNSELOR: Hello girls. I am sorry to be a bit late tonight, but I have just returned

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from Mary's house. Her mother has been sick for months, her father is unemployed and there is real need.

GIRL 1: (A little ashamed). I didn't know anyone was sick there. Mary never said so.

COUNSELOR: (Gently) Well did you ever ask her?

GIRL 1: Well, no, but . . .

COUNSELOR: Perhaps this is what Jesus meant about loving others as ourselves.

GIRL 2: Yes, I believe you are right: I am sorry I was so mean to her. Let's see if we can give her a hand.

ALL: Yes, let's help if we can.

(These two skits are only suggestive. No doubt members of your group could suggest other practical illustrations of Christian witness and life.)

Leader's Introduction

We are discussing the general theme of new heroes with the understanding that all of us as Christians must try in some way to represent Christianity in our personal lives. We need to recapture that same kind of zeal so evident and powerful in the early church. This can only be done if we begin where the early Christians began. (Read Ephesians 5:14.) A true Christian is one who has received the light of the Gospel in his own heart. There are several very interesting ideas here and in Friday's daily Bible reading. (Read I John 1:5-7.) We are called to awake from the dead and Christ will give us light. One would almost believe that such a passage then applies to the resurrection at the end of time. Actually the reference is to the fact that people are dead in sins and will not respond to God unless a miracle of grace occurs in their hearts through Jesus Christ. In verse 7 we read that the blood of Christ cleanses us from all sin. Thus we are saved through Jesus Christ and made children of the light. Since in God there is no darkness but only light we ought to conduct ourselves in such a way that our life is a constant testimony of this. He who said, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12) also said, "Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14).

Practical Christianity — Romans 12

Sometimes we fail to be practical in our Christianity. It is wonderful to have great ideas and noble thoughts but

Questions for Discussion

1. What are some of the opportunities that you have to stand up for Christ at school?
2. Why is it important to make your Christian faith a practical faith? How can you do this?
3. How can you begin preparing now for leadership in the Church?
4. What qualities have you found in the lives of the men and women who have been studied during this unit of three topics? How can you obtain these same qualities?

unless we put them to work our Christianity is not very useful. This is what James must have had in mind when he said, "Even so faith if it hath not works, is dead, being alone" (James 2:17). Have someone read Romans 12:1,2. In this passage we are admonished to remember to dedicate our bodies a living sacrifice to God which is our "spiritual worship" (RSV) or "your worship with understanding" (Berkeley). In other words in the Christian life body and soul belong together and we need to dedicate ourselves wholly and completely to God.

Here a great many practical Christian virtues ensue. There are practical matters that actually characterize the Christian life. Notice the list in Romans 12:9ff.

- Let love be without dissimulation ("genuine" RSV). Do we really love others as Jesus Christ commanded or do we have a make-believe Christianity? This really means applying the "golden rule" of Matthew 7:12.
- Abhor what is evil — cleave to the good. Do we really hate those things that are bad or is our conscience fairly easy about dishonesty, unfairness, cheating, disobedience, pride, etc.?
- Be kind to one another — show the other fellow proper honor; let him come first.
- Not slothful in business ("never flag in zeal", RSV). At home or at school or at church, whatever his job, a Christian performs it with joy.
- Rejoice in hope — patient in tribulation — instant in prayer. Young people do not often stop to think that it takes a real Christian to stand up under life's hard knocks. He knows, of course, that all his life is directed by God.

- Giving and hospitality. How practical can you get! Yet many Christians are very unhappy when Christianity affects their pocketbook. This hospitality refers

to everyone — even strangers — not only your best friends.

- No vengeance. A Christian never bears a grudge.

There are several references to fact that a Christian is not conform but transformed. (Romans 12:2; Titus 2:12; Galatians 6:8). Just exactly what this separation from the world is to me for each individual Christian he will have to determine for himself. One thing is sure a Christian does not try to live close to the world as possible. Too often young people are tempted to conform. They want to be like everyone else. To be a Christian involves a willingness to stand alone. This is the kind of st heroes are made of. Young people ought to consider that anyone can go along with the crowd but it takes a real man, say, *No!*

Every Christian has an important function in the Christian Church. Read now Romans 12:4-8. Notice here that every part of the body of Christ is as important as every other. This is certainly true of young and old alike in the Christian Church. There are some who are called to minister. Some are given the task of teaching. Some are to rule and some are to give.

All of us are called upon to be consistent, day by day Christians. Our lives ought to illustrate the wonderful grace of God. It is never easy to be a Christian. At home and in school and at play, we must be true to our call as followers of Jesus Christ.

Quick Quote

"In 1900, Sir Ernest Shackleton, the Antarctic explorer, put an advertisement in the London Times. It read: 'Men wanted for hazardous journey. Small wages. Bitter cold. Long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful. Honor and recognition in case of success.'

This could be an ad for Christians. Jesus did not come to offer an armchair, slippers, and tranquilizers. Rather, He holds out a cross and calls us to a life of sacrifice.

—William P. Barker in *Personalities Around Jesus*.
(Fleming H. Revell Company)

Daily Bible Readings

M. May 25	Opportunity Unlimited	Galatians 6:1
T. May 26	Works Show Faith	James 2:14
W. May 27	A Righteous Example	Titus 2:7
T. May 28	Christ Gives Light	Ephesians 5:9
F. May 29	Shining Lights	I John 1:5
S. May 30	Children of Light	I Thessalonians 5:4
Sun. May 31	—Topic: Wanted: New Heroes	Romans 12:1-11

Comments by Dr. Jerome DeJong, minister of the Immanuel Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan

Topics

FOR SENIOR HIGHS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Topic 3 in a Unit: Choosing a Vocation

Paul's Supporting Cast

Colossians 4:7-18

o the Leader

You have heard the statement many times, "He got off to a bad start." Well, this is what we don't want you to experience. The way you start off is always important. To get a good start, you must first know when you are appointed to be the leader of the meeting.

Second, get all your materials together and begin to do some solid thinking about the topic. Try to uncover ways and means in which you can present a most interesting and different type of meeting. You can't do this in an hour, but an hour will help a great deal. Work hard on the topic and do more than read it. A fourth grade child can read a topic, and you surely can do better than that.

Third, try to unfold ways whereby you can have group participation. Don't do it all yourself. You want more involvement than yourself. Somebody else ought to read the Scripture. Somebody else ought to offer the prayer. Somebody else ought to secure the special number, vocal or instrumental. You ought to have several people designated to be the first, second, third, and fourth speakers. A little solid thinking will do wonders for you and help you to provide a challenging program. It can be done and you can do it.

You may have better thoughts than the writer of this topic. Don't do your thinking when you are tired in body, discouraged, or irritated. Say to yourself, "I will give my very best in order to present a most interesting topic. I will make this meeting worthwhile. I will really put something into it. By God's grace and help I can do it."

Publicity

POSTER SUGGESTION

Cut out human characters from a magazine and paste them attractively on a poster board. They should represent a physician, writer, teacher, social worker, slave, evangelist, and missionary. Caption it "Teamwork in the greatest business. Hear about Paul's supporting cast." List the date, time, place, and leader.

ROMOTION

1. Contact five people to make at least

six calls on the telephone, be sure to give them the names and phone numbers.

2. Consult your pastor about a spot announcement in the church bulletin.

3. Call the Sunday school superintendent to announce your Christian Endeavor meeting.

4. Have the society secretary write a card to each member announcing the meeting.

5. Select a group of 10 to contact all your Christian Endeavor members who attend Sunday school and church and urge them to attend this meeting.

6. Make this meeting so interesting that they will want to come back next week.

Leader's Presentation

Our topic is built around an outstanding New Testament character, the Apostle Paul. He is looked upon as the most famous of all missionaries and the author of more of the New Testament than was written by any other person.

This apostle, supposed to have been small of stature, was so filled with the power of the Holy Spirit that he brought multitudes of people to Jesus Christ and founded churches in Asia Minor, Greece, and many other areas.

He was born of Jewish parents, of the tribe of Benjamin, about the same time that Christ was born. He was a native of Tarsus, the chief city of the Roman province of Cilicia in Asia Minor and a center of Greek culture and learning. He was brought up a Pharisee. The Pharisees

Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service

Prelude: (pianist plays twice) *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

Moment of Silent Prayer

Hymn: *I Would Be True*

Responsive Reading: Selection 10, Discipleship

Scripture Lesson: Colossians 4:7-18

Special Music: Vocal or Instrumental

Announcements and Offering

Hymn: *I Would Be Like Jesus*

Sentence Prayers

Leader's Presentation

Talks on the Topic

General Discussion and Question Period

Hymn: *Give of Your Best to the Master*

Fellowship Circle and Benediction



were the leading and most strict of Jewish sects. He was educated in Jerusalem in the school of Gamaliel, the most renowned of Jewish scholars of that time. He spoke Greek but he learned Hebrew in Jerusalem. He was a tentmaker by trade for every Jewish youth had to learn a trade.

The Pharisees's boast was his righteousness; he made broad his phylacteries (portions of Scripture worn on the forehead and arm) and enlarged the borders of his garments. The righteousness of Saul, however, was wholly of the flesh. He was righteous before men. Measuring himself by human standards, he was without reproach.

When Saul encountered Jesus Christ and became a new creation in Christ, he fully realized the sinfulness of his own heart. In fact he called himself a chief of sinners.

Saul was more than blameless in life, he was exceedingly religious. He not only stood for the faith of his fathers, but he was very zealous in his service. At the time of his conversion he had letters of authority and was very religiously persecuting the Christians.

He was by no means a man of low ideals; he was ambitious; he sought the very highest mark of attainment; he had many things he counted gain. He wanted the very best that his religion and his nation afforded. No one could have called him a nominal member of the synagogue. He was active to the limit. He was busy rounding up saints who professed faith in Christ. He was zealous even beyond most of his day as he persecuted the church.

If you read Romans 16:7 you will discover that some other people influenced his life. The very fact that Paul mentions these people and tells us that they were in Christ before he was, suggests strongly that they had something to do with his conversion.

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(Read Acts 7:58.) Here you see that Stephen, the martyr, threw something around the life of Saul of Tarsus that he could not too easily shake off. The martyrdom of Stephen must have made a lasting impression upon the mind of Saul.

One day it happened. It was one of the most wonderful days in the experience of Saul of Tarsus. It happened while he was on a special mission to persecute the saints of God. He was stricken down on the Damascus road and, in a moment of time, realized that he was in reality, fighting against Christ. Then he said, "Who art thou, Lord?" The word was fresh from heaven, "I am Jesus." This was the beginning of a notable missionary career. You could easily divide his life into six periods:

1. Saul the student; 2. Saul the persecutor; 3. Saul the convert; 4. Paul the missionary; 5. Paul the author; 6. Paul the martyr.

But Paul was not alone in the great drama of the growing first century Church, he had a large and effective supporting cast. Some of his helpers may not be familiar to you, but they were co-workers with the Apostle Paul. Let us look at some of these now.

Talks on the Topic

(The speakers should secure further information on Paul's co-workers from a Bible dictionary. The pastor of the church will be able to supply this and other books.)

First Speaker

One of his helpers was Tychicus who was recognized as the beloved brother and a faithful minister in the Lord. Paul counted on him. Paul was eager to know the state of the Colossians, on account of the seduction to which they were exposed from false teachers. He speaks of this in Colossians 2:1 as a "great conflict." Tychicus would come among them and comfort them. They were distressed by Paul's imprisonment as well as by their own trials and testings. Tychicus held a warm spot in the life of Paul. There is something here for us: we can be beloved brethren and sisters; we can be faithful in all our services; and we can be a source of comfort to all people.

Second Speaker

Another helper was a man named Onesimus. He was a slave. (Read the epistle of Philemon for more information on this brother beloved.) He was known to the Colossians as the slave of Philemon, their fellow townsman and fellow Christian.

Questions for Discussion

1. In what areas of Christian Endeavor do we need our finest teamwork?
2. What are some of the things we learn in association with others in committee work?
3. What is meant when people say, "Christ equips those He commissions for service"?
4. What is our society doing for Christ and His Church? We do not mean attendance at each society meeting, something deeper than that. Does the community know our society represents Christ and His Church?
5. What is our society doing to properly train our members for leadership within the church, apart from leading a meeting occasionally?
6. How many members of our society would volunteer to be a supporting cast in united prayer for our pastor and the work he represents?

Paul refers to him as a son in the Gospel. (Read Philemon 10.) You can see how much Paul thought of Onesimus when he tells Philemon, "If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account." We must ever remember that we are partners in the Christian fellowship of faith, hope, and love.

Third Speaker

Another helper was Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica (Acts 27:2). He was Paul's companion in travel. He accompanied Paul to Asia and subsequently to Rome. He is spoken of as Paul's "fellow prisoner" but in Philemon 24 as Paul's "fellow labourer." There is nothing that can equal a true friend. This we can be to somebody else.

Fourth Speaker

Another helper is Timothy. Paul delighted to call him "My beloved child." Timothy had a background of training in religion. He had a mother and a grandmother that channeled the Word of truth to his mind and heart. Paul reminded him that he had known the sacred writings from a babe. Timothy was the best loved of all Paul's younger friends; he was dependable.

We can be helped by the things Paul told Timothy concerning the Word of God. He told him it was "profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction, which is in righteousness."

Leader's Conclusion

Paul was the first great cosmopolitan citizen who ignored boundaries of race and creed and sought to unite men by a personal allegiance to Jesus Christ. He saved Christianity from the fate of a minor sect and raised it to the position of a world-wide religion. The narrow

concept with which the faith began was enlarged by him until its scope included all men everywhere. Chrysostom said, "Three cubits in stature he touched the sky." Without him and his supporting cast, what would have happened to Christianity in that far off first century? With him and his helpers, Christianity marched on.

Thoughts for Further Discussion

When you carefully study the people who were associated with Paul you will discover they had a special task to perform. Are you in love with your work? To be more specific, are you in love with your work or Christian Endeavor?

Do you recall this quotation from the pen of some ready writer, "God gives every bird its food, but he does not throw it into the nest." Well, that's food for thought. It does apply to being a part of a supporting cast. The bird must go out and get its food. Do you know of a better way to support your Christian Endeavor society really than going out and doing the work that is necessary?

The supporting cast must share in the work. Homer said, "Light is the task when man share the toil." Calvin Coolidge said, "Few men are lacking in capacity, but they fail because they are lacking in application."

Paul's supporting cast did not venture without thought. Henry Ford said, "Thinking is the hardest work there is, which is probably the reason why so few engage in it."

Charles M. Schwab, once manager of the Bethlehem Steel Company said, "I have tried to find the man, however exalted his station, who did not do better work and put forth greater effort under a spirit of approval than under a spirit of criticism. Something to think about when you come grips with your supporting casts.

Never refuse to serve on a Christian Endeavor Committee for the other members are a part of the supporting cast that can accomplish great things for Christ and His Church. Even here you sometimes neglect to realize the power of association. You are shaped by it, physically, mentally, and spiritually. People's associations show their faces, in their very walk, and in the attitude of mind toward life.

Each supporting cast must know something about teamwork. Teamwork always wins, in business, in the home, in the classroom, in the nation, in the football and baseball stadium, in the school, and in the church as well as in your Christian Endeavor society. You are always happiest when you are working with others for the good of others.

Daily Bible Readings

M. Apr. 27	Barnabas Accompanies Paul	Acts 13:
T. Apr. 28	Silas Accompanies Paul	Acts 15:36
W. Apr. 29	Paul Meets Timothy	Acts 16:
T. Apr. 30	Tychicus, a Faithful Helper	Ephesians 6:21
F. May 1	Epaphroditus Cares for Paul	Philippians 4:15
S. May 2	Philemon, a Fellow Laborer of Paul	Philemon 1
Sun. May 3—Topic: Paul's Supporting Cast		Colossians 4:7

Comments by Rev. Raymond C. Steinhart, pastor of the Boulevard Evangelical Congregational Church, Allentown, Pennsylvania

Mother's Voice

Proverbs 31:26

(Mother's Day)

ublicity

Extend a written invitation to all mothers of society members. This could be a group project that should be done two weeks in advance of the meeting.

A large written invitation to all church members and friends who are mothers could be prepared and posted on the church bulletin board. The following copy could be placed on the invitation.

Dear Mother:

The Senior High young people request the pleasure of your company at a special meeting in honor of mothers on May 0, 1964, (place and time).

The Christian Endeavor Society

The invitation could be removed from the bulletin board for a special reading during Sunday school.

For the Leader

The presentation of a topic on Mother's Day can become merely sentimental. This should not be the intent of this topic. As the leader, you will need to help the society get underneath the surface of the subject and face the deeper meaning of Christian motherhood. The topic should not only aim at honoring the mothers of your society members, but should also challenge the Senior High girls who are members of the society and who may some day be mothers.

You will want to use the suggestions under *Leader's Introduction* as an aid in preparing your own introduction of the topic. Be prepared to talk from notes rather than reading word for word.

Two weeks before the meeting contact several girls from the society to present brief biographical sketches of mothers of the Bible and of history. These sketches could be examples of both good and bad mothers.

Mother's voice might also be heard by the society by asking three or four mothers to each give a three-minute talk on "What being a mother means to me." If you plan to use mothers in this way be sure to contact them at least two weeks before the meeting.

You might want to ask members of your society to use their talents to express their understanding of a mother's love and devotion. This could turn into a time of testimony.

The meeting will be more meaningful

Our Purpose

The purpose of this meeting is to honor all mothers who have spoken words of wisdom, who have shown love and kindness, and who have thereby influenced individuals.

by inviting the mothers of society members to be guests of honor at the meeting. The social committee should plan to have a fellowship hour following the meeting to honor the mothers that are present. Cookies and punch would fit the occasion. They should be prepared by the committee and not the mothers.

Leader's Introduction

Mother's Day provides us with the opportunity of giving special recognition to mothers who seek to fulfill their important responsibility given them by

Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service

Call to Worship

Song Service: *For the Beauty of the Earth; Great Is Thy Faithfulness; Let the Beauty of Jesus*

Welcome to Mothers and Visitors

Favorite Songs of Mothers: (Check a week before the meeting to find out the favorite hymns of the mothers of the society president and vice-president; make sure that these are in *CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SONGS*.)

Scripture Lesson: Proverbs 31:10-28

Announcements and Offering

Hymn: *I Would Be True*

Topic Presentation:

Leader's Introduction

Famous Mothers of the Bible

Talks by Mothers

Leader's Conclusion

Prayer Hymn: *The Beautiful Garden of Prayer*

Sentence Prayers

Friendship Circle and Mizpah Benediction

Fellowship Hour in Honor of the Mothers Present



God. Our mothers have often sacrificed in order to give us the opportunities that we need in life.

We want to look at some of the qualities that make Christian mothers so remarkable and radiant. The book of Proverbs used in our Scripture lesson paints a beautiful portrait of a godly mother. Let us examine these verses more closely and discover the attributes of godly motherhood.

(This is an outline which the leader should expand on with the use of significant examples from the Bible, history, or contemporary life.)

PROVERBS

- (31:10) *A Rare and Priceless Jewel*
- (31:11) *Trustworthiness*
- (31:12) *Consistent Goodness*
- (31:13, 14) *A Willing Worker*
- (31:15, 16) *A Good Businesswoman*
- (31:17-19) *Strength and Alertness*
- (31:20) *Loving kindness*
- (31:21, 22) *Preparedness*
- (31:23) *Humility*
- (31:24, 25) *Creative Effort*
- (31:26) *Soft-Spoken*
- (31:27) *Diligence*
- (31:28, 29) *Honor*
- (31:30, 31) *Godliness*

Famous Mothers of the Bible

The following sketches should be presented by several girls in the society. They should allow members of the society to guess the person being described after each clue. The leader should be prepared to read the Scripture text to the group after the mother is guessed.

(Continued on next page)

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She was a direct descendent of the Royal House of David. She is rarely mentioned in Scripture. She was the wife of Joseph. MARY (Read Luke 1:27.)

This individual was the wife of Abraham. In old age she had a son. His name was Isaac. SARAH (Read Genesis 11:29.)

She was Laban's beautiful young daughter. Jacob fell in love with her at first sight. Her first son was named Joseph. RACHEL (Read Genesis 29:28.)

The wife of Zebedee and the mother of James and John. A woman who witnessed the Crucifixion. She was among those who visited the Tomb of Jesus on Easter morning. SALOME (Read Mark 16:1.)

Jacob was her favorite son. Though the rights of the firstborn belonged to Esau, she succeeded in obtaining these rights for Jacob. To escape Esau's anger, she prompted Jacob to flee to her brother, Laban. REBEKAH (Read Genesis 27:15.)

This woman was the wife of Zacharias. She was related to Mary, the mother of Jesus. She was the mother of a son named John. ELIZABETH (Read Luke 1:57.)

A Jewess who belonged to the family of Kish. She became the favorite wife of King Ahasuerus. She was a queen. ESTHER (Read Esther 2:18.)

A Philistine woman. She is mentioned in the book of Judges. She discovered the secret of Samson's strength. DELILAH (Read Judges 16:6.)

She was the daughter of Lois. Her home was in Lystra. She was the mother of Timothy. EUNICE (Read II Timothy 1:5.)

This woman was the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah, the Hittite. After her husband was slain in battle, she married King David.

She was the mother of Solomon, BATHSHEBA (Read II Samuel 11:3.)

She lived in the days of Ahab and Jezebel. Her son died and she called a prophet to help her. The prophet Elisha brought the child back to life.

Questions for Discussion

1. What contributions have come to you through the faith of your mother?
2. How did Jesus demonstrate His love for His mother?
3. Should a mother spend too much time doing church work and other "good projects"?
4. What is the most important obligation that a Christian mother has to her children?
5. What important obligations do children have to their mother and father?
6. What is the difference between a "house" and a "home"?
7. Who bears the greatest responsibility in the home?

THE SHUNAMMITE WOMEN (Read II Kings 4:36.)

True Life Illustration

Why Mother?

The breath of life ceased to pass through my mother's lips early in the morning of April 4, 1958. It was Good Friday and the same question ran repeatedly through my mind. "Why Mother?"

God had given me a wonderful family and we faithfully attended church. But when He took my mother to live in Eternity, it was as if He had taken everything I had. I resented Him and felt much less need for His guidance. Now I realize that I should have turned to Him even more at that time.

In three years, my father remarried and we began to attend our new stepmother's church. I gained new hope and understanding. My new mother and I became rather close and now I come to her with all of my problems.

In this new church I became quite involved in helping to organize a youth organization. God became very close and dear to me. No problem seems too small to share with Him.

Today I again enjoy a happy Christian family. No longer do I ask, "Why Mother?"

—Nancy Garrison

Leader's Conclusion

Mother's Day marks the close of National Family Week. We are living in days when so many families are being torn apart by selfishness and discord. The rate of divorces is increasing at alarming rates each year. We must continue to uphold Christian family life and Christian motherhood to a society that so often takes these responsibilities light-

ly. We have seen some of the attributes that make for godly mothers and families. We who will be the future parents must determine to put Christ at the center of our future homes.

Abraham Lincoln, like many before and after him, attributed his greatness to the influence of his mother when he said: "I remember my mother's prayers and they have followed me; they have clung to me all my life. All that I am and hope to be I owe to my angel mother."

My Mother's Voice

The soft, embracing touch of a rose, The warmth of the sun at noonday, The beauty of new-fallen snow, The loveliness of a rain drop;

This is my mother's voice.

The color of leaves that autumn paints, The freshness of apple blossoms that comes with spring,

The quietness of winter's white carpet, The untold wealth that lies in summer wheat;

This is my mother's voice.

The majesty of a towering mountain, The reverence of a church spire, The tranquility of a sleeping world, The peace that one beholds in a valley.

This is my mother's voice.

A love that taught me about life and of God,

An understanding that brought me through every trouble,

The ability to share all my joys, A patience that taught me how to live a good and happy life:

Her voice is my comfort.

by Barbara Gunnerson,
a member of the
Southridge Senior High
Christian Endeavor Society

Daily Bible Readings

M. May 4 Samuel's Mother Prays I Samuel 1:9
T. May 5 An Admirable Mother-in-Law Ruth 1:6
W. May 6 Paul's Instructions Regarding Widows I Timothy 5:1
T. May 7 Timothy's Mother II Timothy 1:2
F. May 8 The Voice of Elizabeth Luke 1:39
S. May 9 The Voice of Mary Luke 1:46
Sun. May 10—Topic: Mother's Voice Proverbs 31 (Mother's Day)

Comments were prepared by members of the Senior High Christian Endeavor Society of Southridge Community Reformed Church, Denver, Colorado, under the direction of Mabel Preston, sponsor.

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD

Topic 1 in a Unit: Heroes of the Church

The Heroic Apostles

Acts 2:1-21

(Pentecost)

To the Leader

The playlet can be produced with simple props in the meeting room. If adequate rehearsal time is not available, it could be presented as a radio broadcast, from behind screen, or tape-recorded in advance.

If the playlet is not used, have longer talks prepared on several of the more prominent apostles, using material from such books as: *Training of the Twelve*, A. P. Bruce; *The Master's Men*, William Barclay; *The Twelve Christ Chose*, Asbury Smith; *Meditations for Youth*, Alfred P. Klaus-

Leader's Introduction

Today the Christian world is celebrating Pentecost. This was the occasion which marked the beginning of Christ's church, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit and experienced a transformation of their lives which in turn brought about a transformation of their world. From a group of bewildered, frightened followers of a discredited leader, they were changed into the fearless champions of a new religion which was to sweep over the western world.

Tonight we want to concentrate our attention on this event and on the apostles who were so miraculously affected by it. Let us first consider Pentecost from a point of view which may be new to us. Our scene is the tropical headquarters of a world-wide company, whose chief is awaiting news from one of its branch offices. (Scene an office. Chief stands with back to audience, warming hands at fireplace or stove. Operative X enters, pauses, then clears throat. Chief starts, turns.)

CHIEF: Ah, it's you, Operative X. Come in. I was just warming my hands here at the fire. Have a seat and we'll go over your reports. (Chief sits behind desk. Operative sits on chair closest to desk, opens folder, takes out papers.)

CHIEF: All right, how are things in Palestine? Is the rebellion against our rule stamped out?

OPERATIVE X: It would appear so, your Excellency. After the execution of the man Jesus, his followers have gone into hiding and apparently we will have nothing to fear from them. Not a very ambitious lot—no? (smiles)

CHIEF: No, we'll have no trouble from them. Thick-headed group, on the whole,

wouldn't you say? It was amazing that the man Jesus in all his training of them was still unable to teach them the true nature of his rebellion. Clear to the end they thought it was the Romans he wanted to free the people from—they never recognized that it was really us he was after! (laughs) And of course it's ironic that right among his twelve central lieutenants was one of our men. Oh, what does Judas Iscariot report?

OPERATIVE X: Nothing. As a matter of fact, he's dead. Seemed to go all to pieces after his mission of delivering Jesus into the hands of the soldiers was accomplished. Made a nasty scene before the chief priests and then went out and killed himself. Always an emotional fellow. Undependable.

CHIEF: Yes, my judgment exactly. But it's just as well. We have from him what we wanted. His usefulness was at an end. What else is new?

OPERATIVE X: Well, reports are vague and conflicting. There were natural disturbances the day of the execution of Jesus—an earthquake and a strange atmospheric darkness which interfered with communications. All sorts of wild stories have circulated among those who were in Jerusalem for the Passover. Someone tried to start a rumor that Jesus had risen from the dead. That won't go far!

CHIEF: Of course the Romans displayed the body to dispel any doubts?

OPERATIVE X: Well . . . the body has disappeared from the tomb it was placed in. We have started the rumor that his apostles stole it during the night.

Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service

Call to Worship: Mark 1:17

Opening Hymn: *Rise Up, O Men of God or Trust and Obey*

Invocation

Song Service: *How Firm a Foundation; We Choose Christ; We're Marching to Zion*

Announcements and Offering

Hymn: *Are Ye Able, Said the Master Leader's Introduction*

Playlet

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Series of Talks on Apostles

Closing Hymn: *Spirit of the Living God, or With Thy Spirit Fill Me*

Mizpah Benediction



CHIEF (annoyed): Of all the bungling fools! Am I to be bothered with such trivia? Must I intervene myself with Caesar to make things operate smoothly? What rotten luck!

OPERATIVE X: But, Chief, nobody will believe that wild tale, and besides, his followers are in hiding, completely demoralized. Some have gone back to Galilee and resumed their fishing business.

CHIEF (still annoyed): Well, it doesn't please me, nevertheless. I like things done neatly and efficiently, and if my present staff can't give that kind of performance, they'll just have to go, that's all. How long has it been now since the execution?

OPERATIVE X: Just about fifty days, sir; the Jews are celebrating Pentecost, the end of the grain harvest. (Secretary appears in doorway.)

SECRETARY: Pardon me, sir, but a courier has just arrived from Palestine. He's terribly upset and insists on seeing you. Do you want to talk to him?

CHIEF (rising agitatedly): Yes, yes, get him in here at once. (Courier enters, panting.) That's the spirit, man. Get the news there while it's still hot! Here, sit down, catch your breath, and give us a report. (Pushes chair forward. Courier sits.) Now, what is it?

COURIER: Emergency in Jerusalem, sir. The lieutenant in charge of operations needs immediate instructions. Things are completely out of hand.

CHIEF: How so? Speak up, man!

COURIER: As instructed, we had a spy watching every one of Jesus' apostles. They reappeared in Jerusalem a few days ago, and vague stories circulated that Jesus had appeared to them and instructed them to preach about him to the entire world, and then he disappeared into the sky.

CHIEF: What drivel! Have they become active among the people?

COURIER: No, they stayed together in almost constant sessions of prayer. And then today, today . . . it's just too awful.

CHIEF (strikes desk): Get to the point, man, the point!

COURIER: As our spy watched their prayer meeting through a window, there seemed to come a sudden storm. A wind blew

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through the house, and a bolt of lightning must have struck. Anyway, a tongue of flame appeared on each of them.

CHIEF (elated): Wonderfull We must have allies we know not of! They are all dead then?

COURIER: Oh, no, sir. After the flames appeared, they began to cry out and to speak words not in the Aramaic language.

CHIEF: Ah, deranged and driven mad!

COURIER: Oh, no, they went into the street and began to address the crowds there for the feast day. And people from all over the world could understand them, each in his own language. We at once spread the story that they were drunk.

CHIEF: And then?

COURIER: Then Simon Peter, their leader, addressed the crowd. You have never seen such a transformation! Thousands of people, and as he spoke it was clear that he would sway them to his message. We stopped our ears to save our loyalty. And I was dispatched for orders.

CHIEF: Oh, 'tis a black day! (Noise offstage. Looks to door.) What is this disturbance? (Second courier dashes in and falls into chair.)

2ND COURIER: Oh, sire, our operation in Jerusalem is in a sad shape. The man Simon Peter has gone mad and has carried the crowd with him. Such a sermon you have never heard.

CHIEF (drily): I dare say. And the outcome?

2ND COURIER: The crowd became more and more excited as he preached, were cut to the quick, and when he finally convinced them that the Jesus whom they had crucified was the anointed of God, they rushed upon him crying, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." And you will never believe it—three thousand of the crowd has followed after their cause—*three thousand!* Oh, 'tis a cold black day for our work.

CHIEF: Oh, cold black day that ever flame, my own symbol and tool, is turned against me and made an instrument of the opposition. (frantically) Call a general conference! (Aides begin to scurry about collecting files, opening drawers, dragging up tables and chairs.) Get a "hot line" to Rome, one to the chief priest in Jerusalem! Call in all Palestinian deputies. And put more coal in the furnace. We'll undo this yet! (General noise and confusion as curtain closes or lights are extinguished.)

The Apostles

Who were these twelve men called apostles? They were all young men, probably none of them much older than Jesus Himself. They came from the common walks of life. There were two sets of brothers, Peter and Andrew, and James and John. These four and Philip had been followers of John the Baptist before they became followers of Jesus. All except Judas Iscariot were Galileans.

Questions for Discussion

1. What weakness did the apostles have in common with Christians today?
2. What admirable qualities can be singled out in each apostle?
3. Is it possible to be as "on fire" for the Lord today as the apostles were after Pentecost?

Jesus prepared for the choosing of His apostles by a night of prayer. They were chosen "to be with Him," to provide a close fellowship during Jesus' earthly days, and to carry on His work after He left the earth. They left homes and families to follow Him to martyr's deaths, and to life everlasting.

Simon Peter

Simon Peter was a natural leader among the apostles. With James and John, he was in the inner circle of the apostles who were with Jesus at the Transfiguration, at the raising of Jairus' daughter, and in the Garden of Gethsemane.

An impetuous, brash man, Peter is often remembered for the times when his lack of good judgment brought rebukes from Jesus, such as his resort to violence in the Garden, and his denial of Christ after his arrest. We sometimes forget that he was also the first of the apostles to declare "Thou art the Christ." On the day of Pentecost it was Peter whose inspired preaching converted three thousand people. And Peter's preaching to Cornelius marked the recognition of the place of the Gentiles in the Christian faith. After the account of the council at Jerusalem concerning the Gentile Christians and the Jewish law, we hear little of Peter. He is mentioned in the writings of Paul as appearing in Antioch and Corinth, and engaging in missionary journeys. Tradition assigns him a martyr's death by crucifixion at Rome during the persecutions by Nero.

Andrew

Andrew, a commercial fisherman on the Sea of Galilee with his brother, Simon Peter, is called the first missionary, because after being directed to Jesus by John the Baptist, he went to find his brother to bring him to Christ. After the founding of the Church, Andrew is supposed to have traveled to present day Rumania and Greece where he was martyred.

James and John

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were called "Sons of Thunder" by Jesus, probably because of their vehemence.

Once they wanted to call down fire on the village of the Samaritans, and once they provoked a quarrel among the disciples over a request for positions of honor when Jesus should come into His kingdom. James, always mentioned first, apparently the elder. Their mother, Salome, may have been a sister to Mary, the mother of Jesus.

A few years after the founding of the Church, James was the first apostle to be martyred. John, whom Jesus loved above all the other apostles, and who sat next to Him at the Last Supper, supervised the churches of Asia Minor. John was banished to the isle of Patmos by the Emperor Domitian, and there received the Revelation. Returning to Ephesus, he lived to a great old age, the only one of the apostles not to be a martyr.

Simon and Thomas

Simon the Zealot was so called to distinguish him from Simon Peter. The Zealots were members of a patriotic organization of Jews, many of whom sought the overthrow of Roman rule.

The name of Thomas has become closely linked with the characteristic doubt, because of his reluctance to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. We tend to forget that when Jesus determined to return to Judea, where his life had been threatened, Thomas said to the other disciples, "Let us also go that we may die with Him." Tradition assigns his martyrdom to Persia or India.

Some of the apostles became the most prominent of the leaders of the first century Church; some of them are known only by their listing in the names of the apostles. But after the transforming experience of the day of Pentecost, all of them gave of their utmost capabilities in the preaching of the Gospel. From the fiery beginning in Jerusalem the word of Christ spread to "Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth."

Daily Bible Readings

M. May 11	The Apostles Chosen	Luke 6:12
T. May 12	The Apostles Taught	Matthew 16:13
W. May 13	The Apostles Eat with Jesus	Matthew 26:20
T. May 14	The Apostles See the Risen Christ	John 20:19
F. May 15	The Apostles See Christ Ascend	Acts 1:10
S. May 16	The Apostles Wait and Pray	Acts 1:11
Sun. May 17—Topic: The Heroic Apostles		
	(Pentecost)	

Comments by Mr. Charles C. Meek of Arcadia, Texas, president of the Texas Christian Endeavor Union

Laymen Who Led

Acts 8:5-13

the Leader

This can be an outstanding program in challenge to your members. In order to tie the topic more relevance to today, tie in with the life of your own church. Select some person from your church who has rendered outstanding service over the years and draw up a citation recognizing this person's achievements in the Lord's work and present the citation during your program. Perhaps someone who organized and sponsored a Christian Endeavor group many years, or someone who served long years as Sunday school superintendent, as a leader in the governing body during a particularly challenging period of your church's history.

This would be a good time to search out the history of your local church—have its early records ever been organized into a readable history? Are there "oldtimers" whose memories about early days could be down by your members and preserved? Such a set of interviews could be the source of much inspiration for your group.

Leader's Introduction

Ours is a day of specialization. The increasing complexity of modern life has readily forced us away from the Renaissance ideal of the well-rounded man, who was expected to excel at a multitude of activities. In the past we have seen such men as Thomas Jefferson: statesman, writer, musician, architect, inventor, educator, gentleman farmer. Today we tend to feel a little like the Ph. D. candidate—we are learning more and more about less and less, until one day we will know everything about nothing. So we "leave it to the experts." Household machinery that once could be kept running by the housewife armed with a pair of scissors and a wad of chewing gum now requires a corps of uniformed factory-trained repairmen. It would seem that this trend is also apparent in our religious life. More and more churches rely on their professional paid workers to carry on the necessary work of the church. Is Christianity in danger of becoming a "spectator sport"? Of all areas of human activity, this is one which cannot be relegated to such a category, when Christianity ceases to be a personal thing, it ceases to have meaning.

In the early Church a distinction between laity and clergy was almost nonexistent. Every Christian felt the immediate burden of responsibility for the progress of the Gospel. Perhaps by a

consideration of the service rendered by some of these early Christians we can arrive at a new resolve to assume more personal responsibility for the work of Christ today.

Early Church Leaders

James

Any activity that involves the efforts of more than one person will inevitably reach a point at which disagreements arise. At such times we appreciate the importance of leaders who, by their fairness, their tact, their grasp of the implications of all the varying opinions put forward, can help a group to resolve their differences in such a way that the work can go forward unimpeded by personal bitterness and recrimination. Such leaders were vitally important to the work of the church in the first century, as groups of converted Jews and pagans from many national cultures entered the new Christian church. We are familiar with the sense of national slight felt by the Greek widows as they complained at the distribution of welfare funds. This led to the naming of the first deacons in the church.

The most serious problem within the early church was that of the relation of Gentile Christians to the Jewish Law. Many of the Jewish Christians felt that

Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service

Call to Worship: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

Opening Hymn: *Lead on, O King Eternal or Onward Christian Soldiers*

Invocation

Hymns: *In the Service of the King; For Christ and the Church; Send the Light*

Announcements and Offering

Scripture Reading: James 2:14-24

Special Music: *Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone?*

Leader's Introduction

Topic Presentation

Recognition of Outstanding Church Leader

Leader's Conclusion and Sentence Prayers

Benediction



the Gentiles must conform to the rules of the Jewish Law—must become Jews before becoming Christians. Such a doctrine could have had a severely crippling effect on the growth of the church, making it in effect a national rather than a universal body.

The problem was so serious that the first council of the leaders of the church was convened at Jerusalem. The man who presided over this meeting was a powerful force in shaping the course of the church. He was James, the brother of Jesus. We know that the brethren of Jesus did not believe in His mission during His life on earth, but the name of James as a leader of the church appears quite early. We do not know how or when he became a believer, but he seems to have been the leader of the church from its organization. Paul tells of conferring only with Peter and James when he first visited Jerusalem after his conversion.

James' lifework was the smoothing of the way of Jews to Christianity. Although his views agreed with those of Paul, he never ignored the strong Jewish conscience concerning the law. The Jews are said to have given him the name, "the Just." In his presiding over the Jerusalem council he calls Peter's work among the Gentiles a fulfillment of a prophecy of Amos, and the decision reached keeps in mind the Jewish traditions by its warning to the Gentile Christians to renounce idolatry, immorality, and the eating of blood.

The epistle which bears James' name is written to the Christian Jews and has as its object the reform of the sins and errors into which they would be likely to fall, especially the confusing of a mere intellectual acknowledgment with a working, living faith.

The example of James, devoting his life to the kindly overcoming of error

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by calm reasoning, compassion for the feelings of others, but a firm stand when final truth is involved, is one which could well be emulated by each of us as we strive to grow in Christian leadership.

Barnabas

Barnabas, a Levite from Cyprus, was one of the early converts who came into the church as a result of the apostles' preaching. He is the first person named who sold his land and contributed the money to the common fund for the need of the Christians.

Barnabas set an example of selflessness in his recognition of the good within others. It was his defense of Paul that won Paul's acceptance by the disciples at Jerusalem after his conversion. Barnabas later accompanied Paul on his first missionary journey. And Barnabas had the courage to differ with Paul concerning Barnabas' nephew, John Mark, who had withdrawn from them on their journey, and whom Paul did not want to take on the second trip. Barnabas, seeing a possibility for great service within John Mark, defended him to the extent of separating from Paul and taking John Mark with him on a different mission. This confidence perhaps helped to give John Mark the second chance that he needed in order to develop into a strong Christian leader. We owe a debt to Barnabas for his ability to see, and his willingness to aid, the growth of potential servants of Christ.

Stephen

Stephen teaches us how to face death. His example of courageous testimony in the face of an angry mob and his death with a prayer for the forgiveness of his murderers was followed by thousands who faced death for their belief in Christ over the centuries.

Probably a Greek-speaking Jew, Stephen was the first named of the seven deacons appointed to oversee the distribution of alms. He became a worker of miracles and a powerful preacher. His preaching aroused opposition among the foreign Jews in Jerusalem. They brought charges against him and he was carried before the Sanhedrin. His defense was a brilliant interpretation of Hebrew history as having Christ as its goal. When he charged the Jews with resisting the Holy Spirit by slaying the Christ as their fathers had done the prophets, the crowd moved in to mob him. When he declared that he saw a vision of the Son of Man at the right hand of God as though to receive him, the mob seized Stephen and cast him out

of the city and stoned him. His dying words, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit . . . Lay not this sin to their charge," were echoed by thousands in the years to come. The persecutions which followed his death caused a dispersion of disciples which made possible the beginning of evangelism among the Samaritans and Gentiles.

Philip

Philip is an example of those who turn misfortune into an opportunity for service, and who stand ready at all times to go wherever the Lord wills. Philip was one of the original seven deacons. When the persecution arose after the martyrdom of Stephen, Philip visited Samaria where he preached and won many converts. This was the first conversion of non-Jews. After his return to Jerusalem, an angel of God instructed Philip to go into the desert toward Gaza. There he met the treasurer of the Queen of Ethiopia. The Ethiopian eunuch was returning from Jerusalem and was pondering religious questions which Philip answered by telling him of Christ. After this Philip journeyed through the towns and villages to Caesarea, where he settled and remained for years. Paul visited him there on his last journey to Jerusalem.

Philip's willingness to do the Lord's will without question or excuse should be a challenge to us whenever we find God's work not convenient to our personal schedules.

Lydia

How often do we hear it said that people in business just can't afford to take positions which are not in accordance with the general public opinion. "It isn't good for business." How inspiring it should be for us then, to read of a woman who did not hesitate to embrace a religion foreign to the city where she was in business, to have such a religious group use her home as a meeting place, and even to extend her hospitality to leaders of this group when they were fresh from prison. Such a businesswoman was Lydia, the first European convert, who made of her home a gateway for the entrance of the Gospel to Europe. And no mention is made of whether this was going to increase the sale of purple in Philippi!

Lydia was originally of Thyatira, a center of the dyeing trade, and was in Philippi in the business of selling purple dyes or dyed goods. She was a worshiper of God, with a group of women who met on the riverside on the Sabbath. At the preaching of Paul she was converted, with her household, and she

insisted that Paul's party make her home their lodging place. While in the city Paul and Silas were imprisoned as "the multitude rose against them." This gave the opportunity for the conversion of the Philippian jailer. After their release, Paul and Silas returned to the house of Lydia.

Whenever we are tempted today to take the easy way out, to refrain from taking a stand for the right because we are afraid of public opinion, we should remember the example of Lydia, a businesswoman who placed the Lord and his business above the prospering of earthly business.

Leader's Conclusion

(Read Hebrews 1:32-2:2.) We have seen tonight how the characters which stand out in Christian history have been those who were busy doing things. What the history of our generation is written, what will be said of us? Will it be said that the church entered a period of decline because its members gave only a service to the cause of Christ? Or will we follow the example of those about whom we have talked tonight, and will be written that the church entered a period of energetic and fruitful activity? (Read the words of the hymn *We Would Be Building*, while the music is played in the background. Close with a series of sentence prayers and the Mizpah Benediction.)

Daily Bible Readings

M. May 18	There's a Cross for Everyone	Matthew 16:24
T. May 19	Watch for His Return	Matthew 25:1
W. May 20	Faith Is Useless without Works	James 2:14
T. May 21	Paul Addresses the Whole Church	Philippians 1:1
F. May 22	Heroes of the Past	Hebrews 11:32
S. May 23	Brethren Paul Remembered	I Corinthians 16:15
Sun. May 24—Topic: Laymen Who Led		Acts 8:5

Comments by Mr. Charles C. Meek of Arcadia, Texas, president of the Texas Christian Endeavor Union

Hymns listed in program outlines in THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD have been selected from the new CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SONGS. This book, with an attractive orange and black krome-kote cover, contains 138 songs and hymns and 20 responsive Scripture readings for youth meetings. Available from International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216. Price: 60¢ each, \$6 per dozen, \$48 per hundred.

Topic 3 in a Unit: Heroes of the Church

Prisoners of Faith

Acts 5:40-42

the Leader

Parts of this topic could be presented in series of radio "You Are There" descriptions of scenes of famous persecutions. *Christian Martyrs of the World* contains abundant material. Be sure to emphasize the spiritual fortitude of martyrs, rather than the sensational aspects of their martyrdoms. The program could be ended by a review of *Through Gates of Splendor*, by Elizabeth Elliott, the story of the five American missionaries killed in Ecuador in 1956, or some other book telling about the sacrifices of modern missionaries.

Leader's Introduction

In our study of the apostles and their work after the founding of the Church at Pentecost, and in our study of the early laymen of the church, we have seen examples of the suffering which the early leaders endured for their faith. Jesus told his apostles that if he was called the Prince of Devils, they could expect no better treatment.

In the writings of Paul we find accounts of the type of life the early leaders endured. (Read I Corinthians 4:9-13.) In his second letter to the Corinthian Christians, Paul lists his own sufferings. (Read II Corinthians 11:23-28.) These tribulations were not reserved for Paul alone. We will study tonight of Christians through the centuries who have suffered for the sake of Christ.

Persecutions under Rome

During the first three centuries of the church's existence, persecution of Christians was not a fixed Roman policy. Usually martyrdoms and persecutions took place because of an outbreak of local mob violence, or the temporary need for a scapegoat to distract the public's attention from other matters. This was the nature of Nero's persecution of Christians in Rome in A. D. 64. It was rumored that he had reclined on his rooftop, playing his harp while watching the holocaust. ("Nero fiddled while Rome burned.") In order to save himself, Nero accused the Christians of setting fire to the city, and ordered a general slaughter of them.

Another period of persecution was under Domitian, just before the end of the first century. The exile of John on Patmos and the Revelation belong to the period of this persecution.

Marcus Aurelius (161-180) persecuted Christians. Polycarp and Justin Martyr were his most famous victims. Polycarp was bishop at Smyrna when a local persecution sought his life. Before a mob in the stadium, the Proconsul urged him, "Swear and I will release thee; curse the Christ."

Polycarp replied, "Eighty and six years have I served him, and he has done me no wrong; how then can I blaspheme my King who saved me?"

At the beginning of the third century, Emperor Septimius Severus made it a crime to baptize a new convert. This was probably the first general law of the empire enacted against the Christians. The worst persecution was during the reign of Decius, who acted out of hatred of the previous emperor's tolerant attitude, and in anger at the spread of Christianity within the empire.

Often local persecutions were set off by fears of business people, as in the riots involving Paul at Philippi over the cleansing of demons from maidens, and at Ephesus, where the silversmiths saw in Christianity a threat to their livelihood from manufacturing and selling silver images of Diana to the pilgrims who flocked to her famous temple there.

From the time of Augustus there thrived a cult of homage to the emperor. In all principal cities were altars where citizens were expected to demonstrate their love of the empire through burning incense to the emperor. The Romans exempted the Jews, with their fanaticism concerning the One God, from this requirement. At first they regarded the

Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service

Call to Worship: Acts 5:40-42

Opening Hymn: *Faith of Our Fathers*

Invocation

Hymns: *I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go; Give of Your Best to the Master; We've a Story to Tell to the Nations*

Announcements and Offering

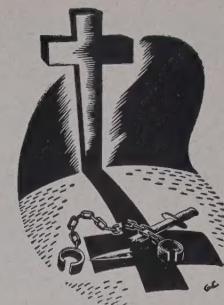
Special Music: *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

Scripture Reading: Matthew 10:5-39

Presentation of Topic

Closing Hymn: *How Firm a Foundation*

Benediction



Christians as only one more sect of the Jews. But, unlike the Jews, the Christians constantly sought to win others to their beliefs, and to join them in a refusal to worship the emperor. The problem was complicated for the Romans by the fact that the religion reached into the military and the government, and eventually into the imperial household itself.

During the third century the fortunes of Rome continually declined. Thirty emperors occupied the throne, hardly any of them dying a natural death. Diocletian, reigning for twenty years at the end of the century, managed to restore order and a certain amount of stability to the empire. During most of his reign he paid no attention to the growth of Christian power. Christians served as governors of important provinces without being required to sacrifice to the emperor, and great churches came to power in many cities. Then in 303 Diocletian issued an edict that Christian churches should be destroyed, Christian worship prohibited, and Christian Scriptures confiscated and burned. The protection of the law was withdrawn from Christians, and bishops and parishioners were rounded up wholesale and imprisoned, tortured, and many put to death. This persecution continued for a decade.

The emergence of Constantine the Great ended the Roman persecutions of the Church. Constantine won support partly by his mild treatment of the Christians, and he claimed that while preparing for the decisive battle of his rise to power, outside Rome, he saw in the night sky a lighted cross and the words, "In this sign thou shalt conquer." Constantine from that time carried the banner of Christ at the head of his legions, and became a friend and protector of Christianity. Within a century after Constantine, Christianity became the official religion of the state, a relationship which in many ways was worse for the progress of the Gospel than the persecutions of previous centuries had been.

(Continued on next page)

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Persecution in the Name of Christ

With the new prestige accorded the Church by Constantine, thousands poured into its membership, many for selfish reasons. This led to a dilution of the force of the Church's message and of its moral force in the lives of its members. It was not long until the once persecuted Church became itself a persecutor. With the influx of "converted" pagans into the Church, the distinction between laity and clergy grew. As the mass of the Church suffered a dilution, the clergy grew in power and prestige. The Church in the East became a puppet of the imperial court at Constantinople. In the West the bishop of Rome came to acquire such prestige, spiritual and temporal, that he became "pope" of the western Church, and ruler of vast realms of western Europe.

As early as Augustine, the persecution of heretics was presumed to be commanded by Jesus' injunction, "Compel them to come in." This led to all sorts of persecutions of those accused of heretical beliefs. In 1253 Pope Innocent gave his sanction to the use of torture to secure testimony or confession from suspected heretics, and this was employed for centuries.

It has been conservatively estimated that 300,000 women were put to death for witchcraft in the three centuries ending in 1782. In the thirteenth century during a wholesale slaughter of the heretical Albigensians in southern France, a papal legate is said to have said, "Kill them all; God will know his own."

The Roman Inquisition was begun in the thirteenth century to search out and punish heretics. The Spanish Inquisition of the fifteenth century hunted Jews and Moslems who had professed Christianity and were deemed to have fallen from it, and later against Protestants.

John Wycliffe, "the morning star of the Reformation," was a professor at Oxford during the fourteenth century. In his writings he taught that the Bible, not the pope, was the only valid authority in matters of faith. He was excommunicated from the Church. His great accomplishment was in making the first translation of the Bible into English. Thirty years after his death his bones were dug up and cast into the river near his country home.

John Huss, a priest in Bohemia, came under the influence of Wycliffe's writings and ideas. He preached the need of reform of the Church, and opposed the sale of indulgences. He was promised

a safe-conduct to the Council of Constance, to defend himself against charges of heresy. On his arrival in Constance, he was imprisoned, and when he refused to recant his supposed heresies, the bishop of Lodi preached a sermon on the text, "Let the body of sin be destroyed," and John Huss was burned at the stake, July 6, 1415.

Since Martin Luther defied the power of the Roman Church and succeeded, we tend to forget that his success came out of enduring danger and suffering. After the council at Worms, his friends felt it necessary to hide him for eight months in Wartburg castle. It was here that he translated the New Testament into German.

William Tyndale, an Englishman born in 1483, became a noted scholar and read the Greek Testament of Erasmus. In an argument concerning religious authority, Tyndale declared, "If God spare me I will one day make the boy that drives the plough in England to know more of Scripture than the pope himself!"

Seeing the danger of prison and death that came to others attempting to propagate Luther's teachings, Tyndale determined to leave the country in order to be free to complete a translation of the Bible into English. In spite of all efforts to suppress it, Tyndale's translation was widely circulated and read. He was tried for heresy at Brussels and condemned. His final words were, "Lord, open the king of England's eyes." Then he was strangled and his body burned.

Persecution Today

In many parts of the world, persecution because of religious beliefs has become the exception rather than the rule. Religious toleration is practiced, in theory at least, in most countries. However, those who have sought to carry the Gospel into unfriendly countries, either those under the domination of state-sanctioned churches or of heathen religions have suffered tremendously. Missionaries have endured great privation and danger in attempting to preach the Gospel to primitive groups around the world. In our own day Protestants suffer daily restrictions and sometimes outright persecution in Roman Catholic countries. And missionaries on the field still are called upon to suffer even to the extent of death for their determination to spread Christianity. Five missionaries trying to preach to the Auca Indians of Ecuador were slain in 1956. Missionaries in Africa have lost their lives in the upheavals that have shaken that contin-

ent since the withdrawal of the former European colonial powers.

And everywhere that communism comes to power, Christians have found themselves a persecuted minority. An example is the suppression of Christian Endeavor in North Korea in 1946 and 1947. Meetings were disrupted, ministers arrested. The young general secretary of Christian Endeavor for North Korea, Kim Doo-Young, was imprisoned for more than a month in a box three and a half feet high, and subjected to 139 hours of torture during interrogation sessions. When no contacts with South Korea could be proved, he was released without charge or trial.

After months of harassment, the authorities ordered Kim to dissolve the North Korean Christian Endeavor Society. He replied, "I cannot be ordered to cease doing my duty. I was elected by the People's Party. I have been elected to represent the members. As long as the membership exists, my duty as chairman exists. The law has nothing to do with a movement of faith."

In spite of his faithfulness, the Christian Endeavor signboard was taken away and an order went out for Kim Doo-Young's arrest. He and four other Christian Endeavor leaders fled by night to South Korea.

Conclusion

(Read Mark 10:28-30.) As we contemplate the suffering endured gladly by followers of Christ over the centuries, we should achieve a new sense of gratitude for the example and challenge which their lives afford to us. The fields which Jesus said are still "white unto the harvest." Have we prayed the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers? Have we examined our own hearts to see what portion of that labor can be our own personal task? Seeing that we are "compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses," let us once more resolve with Paul, to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." (Have a season of prayer before the closing hymn, praying for the missionaries supported by your church in places of danger and hardship.)

Daily Bible Readings

M. May 25	Joseph Is Unjustly Imprisoned	Genesis 39:20
T. May 26	Samson Refuses To Be Mocked	Judges 16:25
W. May 27	Daniel Remains True	Daniel 6:10
T. May 28	The Hebrew Youths Suffer No Harm	Daniel 3:13
F. May 29	The Blessing in Persecution	Matthew 5:10
S. May 30	Paul Closes His Life A Prisoner	II Timothy 1:8
Sun. May 31—Topic: Prisoners of Faith		Acts 5:40

Comments by Mr. Charles C. Meek of Arcadia, Texas, president of the Texas Christian Endeavor Union

Topics and Helps

FOR YOUNG ADULTS AND ADULTS

Topic Summaries for May

The Adult Work Committee which prepared these summaries included Dr. Earle W. Gates, chairman; Joan Pyle, Rev. Walter C. Schaeffer, and Wanna Sell.

Family Devotions (two topics)

The Family at Worship

Hebrews 10:9-25; Luke 4:14-21

Oneness is essential for good family life. The church is an institution that can provide this important element. Regularity in attendance is most important for each member. Worship should be a family-shared experience. What are the rewards? The "family pew" is one of the foundations of both society and home. Public worship is shared in church. A main requirement of attendance here and Sunday school is imperative. Immature children do not have the right of decision regarding school, medical care, legal matters, etc. These are not electives; neither is religion. Should they have more freedom in eternal matters? What are the benefits of public worship together? How does it differ from private worship? What areas of church life unite families in worship? In service? In wholesome recreation? What should be added?

The Family at Prayer

I Thessalonians 5:15-28; John 14:6-20

Public worship brings the family together in church. Private worship brings them together in the home. The family that prays is the one that has the firmest foundation. Do you believe the axiom "The family that prays together stays together"? Every Christian family should daily share in praying, in reading God's Word, and in using devotional aids. Name other helps. Scant time is an inadequate excuse. Family devotions are a mighty spiritual reservoir for each member today and a precious memory for years to come as new homes are established. Share knowledge and experience in family devotions. Discuss and work out alternate plans for daily prayer time. Consider best time, materials, leadership, and order of service. Project: Plan a concerted effort to inspire other families to hold daily devotions.

Denominations (three topics)

1. Beginnings

Acts 2:1-8; Luke 10:1-6

It seems obvious from Scripture that the chief task of the Church is to carry the message of God's love for man as seen in the life of Jesus Christ. Christ sent individuals to do this. When was an organized church developed? Was this God's purpose? Can we demonstrate God's love better through individual work or through the efforts of organizations? The early Christians did not have far to go to find prospective converts since virtually everyone whom they met was unacquainted with Christ. To what degree is this still true today? Does this have any bearing on the fact that early Christians tried to obtain converts by working individually, while we seem to feel the need of an organization? Do you think the message of the early Christians met all the needs of the individual?

2. Divisions

Acts 15:1-5; Colossians 2:8-17

By the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, corruption and unscriptural practices had crept into the Christian Church. When certain leaders attempted to bring the church back to its intended purpose, divisions resulted. These divisions were the beginnings of our denominational separation. When the Scriptures were made available to the common man for study, further divisions developed because of a difference of interpretation of these Scriptures. The denominations as

Prepared by the Adult Work Committee

we find them in modern life have been developed by differences in doctrine, differences in church government, and differences in national origin. Have denominational divisions helped or hindered the spread of the Gospel? Do denominational divisions help to form an image of Christianity in people's minds? Has God's love been shown to the world through denominations?

3. Mergers

John 17:1-11; I Corinthians 1:10

We can hardly keep abreast of the attempts to bring a form of unity to the Protestant Church. In generations past it was the custom for each denomination in the Protestant Church to point with pride to the Scriptural reasons which set it apart from all others. Suddenly it has become popular to forget these reasons and to stress organic union between denominations. Do you think this is what Jesus was praying for in John 17? Does this produce real unity? Do various denominations meet varying needs in individual people which cannot be met in other ways? Study the programs of the following movements and organizations. Which do you think tend to develop true unity among our churches?

- Christian Endeavor
- denominational mergers
- National Association of Evangelicals
- Councils of churches at local, state, national, and world levels
- others

ADULT GROUPS IN THE NEWS

• Both Dr. and Mrs. Daniel A. Poling participated in the Washington Birthday Banquet February 22 of Poling Alumni Foundation No. 1 at Archwood Congregational Church, Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Poling has attended 50 of the 52 annual banquets held since the group was organized. John Stiop is president. James V. Waddell and Cecil A. Jeffery, Ohio Union president and general secretary, also took part.

• The Alpha Alumni Council of National City Christian Church, Washington, and the D.C. Alumni Fellowship enjoyed a birthday dinner at the church on January 27 as guests of the Home Builders Class. Slides and films of the Washington Convention were featured.

• Queens County Alumni of New York

City will enjoy dinner together April 18 at Glen Morris Presbyterian Church in Richmond Hill. Speaker is Rev. Richard L. Francis of John Street Methodist Church. Gladys H. Jensen is president.

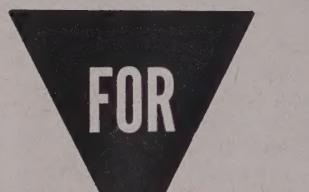
AT THE HEAD TABLE during the Washington, D.C. birthday dinner are (left to right) Mrs. Franklin Van Zandt; Col. Van Zandt, president, Home Builders Class; Carl N. Hilley, president, D.C. Alumni Fellowship; Merritt L. Smith, vice-president, International Society; and Mrs. Juanita Kennedy, president, Alpha Alumni Council.

Photo by Aubrey T. Minor

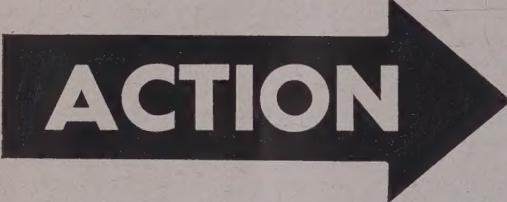




GUIDE



FOR



ACTION



1964-65

Senior High-
Young People's
TOPICS AND
COMMITTEE
SUGGESTIONS

Junior High
TOPICS AND
COMMITTEE
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